UNPFII Intervention on STG 3.3 and the Global Fund - April 2025

Wednesday 23 April 2025

Item 5 (g): Thematic dialogue on the financing of Indigenous Peoples’ work and participation across the multilateral and regional system.

**Honorable Chairperson, esteemed members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, distinguished representatives of Indigenous Peoples:**

On behalf of CAAN Communities, Alliances & Networks (in Canada); the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (in the United States of America), and the Latin American and Caribbean Coalition of Indigenous Peoples in Response to HIV/AIDS in Latin America; we stand together at a critical juncture in our shared global health agenda. Sustainable Development Goal Target 3.3 calls for an end to the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases, and for the combat against hepatitis, waterborne diseases, and other communicable conditions.

Indigenous communities continue to face disproportionate burdens from these diseases—challenges compounded by systemic inequities, entrenched access barriers to quality healthcare, and enduring colonial legacies. Findings from the annual reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights[[1]](#endnote-961) and thematic studies by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[[2]](#endnote-9875) underscore the urgent need for targeted investment and policy innovation in Indigenous health.[[3]](#endnote-24676) Moreover, progress reports within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals consistently highlight financing gaps that must be bridged if we are to realize the full promise of SDG Target 3.3. It is hard to overstate the significance of the SDG targets.[[4]](#endnote-18072) Reaching them would represent a major acceleration in the fight against the three diseases. It would fall short of meeting the 2030 SDG targets, and that needs to be acknowledged and empathized, but it would still represent a massive leap forward.

The Global Fund to fight to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and their ambitious drive—to secure US$18 billion aimed at combating AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria[[5]](#endnote-23592) will save 23 million lives between 2027 and 2029 and is a pivotal opportunity to safeguard not only the hard-won progress against these epidemics but also to reinforce resilient, Indigenous-led health systems. Infectious diseases do not do stalemate: either we keep winning, or we start losing. Not meeting the funding targets, having to scale back programs and turn our back to these new tools could destroy decades of progress.

We applaud and thank United Kingdom and South Africa for their leadership to co-host the Global Fund 8th Replenishment, and we call upon all governments, civil society and the private sector to unite in this urgent effort. The time to act is now. Together, we can change the trajectory of global health, save millions of lives and create a healthier, safer and fairer world for all with a fully funded Global Fund.

1. https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4012703?v=pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-961)
2. https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc4237-rights-indigenous-peoples-report-special-rapporteur-rights [↑](#endnote-ref-9875)
3. https://www.yorku.ca/unsdgs/toolkit/wp-content/uploads/sites/617/2022/05/United-Nations-SDG-and-Indigenous-Peoples-in-Canada-National-Collaborating-Centre-for-Aboriginal-Health.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-24676)
4. https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/ [↑](#endnote-ref-18072)
5. https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/investment-case/ [↑](#endnote-ref-23592)