

ADDRESS BY MR. AIGBOJE AIG-IMOUKHUEDE, GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR, ACCESS BANK PLC AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE GLOBAL FUND'S "GIFT FROM AFRICA" PROJECT AT UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM SUMMIT ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2010

Your Excellencies,

I am honoured to stand before you today both as Group Managing Director/CEO of Access Bank Plc and Chairman of Friends of the Global Fund Africa to formally launch the "Gift from Africa" campaign to support the Global Fund, and to announce gifts to the project from African private sector organisations.

The Global Fund's "Gift from Africa project" is inspired by a realization that the private sector in Africa has a crucial role to play in the fight against AIDS, TB and Malaria and in supporting the Global Fund. This initiative is designed to provide the African private sector with an opportunity to provide responsible leadership and demonstrate to the world that Africans are prepared to play an active part in solving the continent's challenges. The presence of His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, at this gathering further underscores the commitment of Africans to this noble cause.

As a people, we are aware of the impact of these diseases on our continent, and acknowledge the fact that they continue to threaten the wellbeing of our people - Africans -and undermine prospects of the continent for growth, with the associated burden of death and disability. The three diseases have devastating repercussions for human development, society, families, and communities, economies, and have consistently kept our continent down.

We know first-hand the huge difference that financing and oversight from the Global Fund has made in strengthening national responses to the diseases on the continent but it is important to note that these efforts have not had yet the desired impacts, considering the effects of these diseases on our continent. Funding and collaboration with the Global Fund must continue and grow.

Distinguished guests, I am pleased to inform you that the African private sector is committed to partnering with the Global Fund in the fight against the triple pandemics of AIDS/HIV, Malaria and Tuberculosis via our contributions financially and materially. Access Bank, of which I am the Group Managing Director/CEO, is delighted to be one of the founding contributors to "Gift from Africa" with a donation of the sum of USD 1million.

Also other African private sectors companies that have demonstrated commitment and contributions to the "Gift from Africa project" include:

- Anglo American South Africa
- Cirrus Oil Services Ghana
- Old Mutual South Africa
- MTN

I would particularly like to thank these companies and individuals, some of whom have travelled from Africa to be with us today. It is also of significance to inform you that donations raised for United Against Malaria, (UAM) by companies in Africa such as Nando's, MTN and Standard Bank will also be included in the "Gift from Africa project". Today, as we formally launch the "Gift from Africa" campaign, it is our utmost pleasure to confirm to you that the initial contributions to this noble cause from African corporations stand at more than US\$ 3 million. These companies are the first African private sector contributors to the Global Fund.

Finally, I wish to state that our longer term objective is to totally subdue these diseases on the African continent. And the only way to actualise this objective is to continually support the Global Fund and encourage other African private sector organisations to support the Global Fund through their resources, skills and people. We hope the partners present here today will consider how they can cooperate with us in this effort.

I thank you all for listening and wish you a fruitful deliberation.