

**Statement by H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
President Republic of Liberia and
Past Chair of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA)
at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership Reception
5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development
Yokohama, Japan
Sunday, June 2, 2013**

Excellencies;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentleman:

I am happy to join you, however briefly, at this Global Fund and Roll-Back Malaria Partnership Reception, on the occasion of TICAD V.

I come from a continent ravaged by the three scourges of HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which cost us billions of dollars in losses every year. Africa is committed to the fight against these enemies of economic growth.

Until five days ago, I chaired the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, first chaired by President Kikwete of Tanzania, and now by President Guebuza of Mozambique. ALMA, as you know, is an initiative that holds us, as Heads of State and Government, accountable for delivering results in the fight against malaria. In this fight, we value our partners, whom we rely on for bilateral partnerships, as well as support of the Global Fund. Last year, ALMA members agreed to put our shoulders to the wheel and lead the Big Push to achieve near zero malaria deaths by the end of 2015.

Working within our respective governments, and with domestic and international partners, we have, over the past decade, mobilized millions of dollars to scale-up malaria control. Overall, there has been a 33 percent reduction in malaria mortality across the African continent.

TICAD has served as an excellent forum in which to renew this commitment and partnership for development. We are grateful to the Japanese Government and people for their continued significant support as one of the leading donors to the Global Fund.

Few institutions have been more integral to our success than the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and the Global Fund to Fight HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria. RBM has been instrumental in providing a comprehensive and coordinated global response to the disease, and has brought renewed optimism and unparalleled ambition in the response to this once-neglected disease.

Since its inception in 2001, the Global Fund has become the largest multilateral funder of public health in Africa, investing billions in high-impact health interventions. Indeed, the Global Fund is the principal funder of malaria control in Africa, contributing towards progress across some key Millennium Development Goals, including the reduction of maternal and child morbidity

and mortality. Millions of lives have been saved as a result of the Fund's efforts, and this has given a boost to economic development throughout our malaria-endemic continent.

This is a critical year for African countries as the Global Fund seeks full replenishment to ensure that the resources are available to continue to turn the tide against the three pandemics. With recent developments in science and technology, and given the requisite resources, it is possible to completely control the three diseases with the right planning focus and implementation. We need a fully funded Global Fund to build on the success of the past decade, and ensure a better future, free of HIV, TB and Malaria for Africa's children and youth.

The Global Fund, as we know, has undergone a major transformation, with new leadership and processes which have improved country operations and increased efficiency, impact and sustainability.

With 944 days to go to the deadline for implementing the Millennium Development Goals, today more than ever, we call on traditional and emerging donors to support us in maintaining the progress and the momentum, join in the replenishment of the Global Fund, and join us in the Big Push to 2015.

I thank you.