***16 July 2013***

**To: SIIC Chair and Vice Chair, Todd Summers and Shaun Mellors**

cc. Dr Mark Dybul, Executive Director

Dr Marijke Wijnroks, Chief of Staff

Sam Kunii, Director, Strategy, Investment and Impact

Mark Edington, Director, Grant Management

Dear Todd and Shaun

**Championing Gender Equality through the New Funding Model: input to the SIIC discussions on the Gender Equality Strategy, and other core strategies and policies**

We write on behalf of 35 experts on gender equality, from over 20 countries, who met at the secretariat offices to focus on the Global Fund. Twenty-three were women’s rights advocates working at grassroots levels, and with grassroots organizations - over three-quarters of them openly living with HIV.

The participants all shared a concern for working with the Global Fund to enhance impact and ensure that gender equality is well addressed in programmes that tackle AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. This is essential to ensure that the Global Fund has maximum impact on the three diseases, given that gender inequality is a major driver of these epidemics.

The participants applauded the Global Fund for its Gender Equality Strategy (GES). Despite being adopted in 2008, it needs little updating and broadly sets a strong direction for the Global Fund. But participants were dismayed that so little has happened to implement the GES recommendations. Participants call on the Global Fund to implement the GES as a matter of priority.

There are many key actions that participants wish to see adopted – these are outlined in the “Outcomes Document” attached. Participants are aware that the SIIC will be discussing the GES at this July 2013 meeting - and grateful to the 4 members of the SIIC who joined the meeting to listen to their concerns. They have made 4 priority recommendations to the SIIC for their consideration at this meeting. These are elucidated in the “Priority recommendations” document. In summary, they call on the Global Fund to:

1. require sex and age-disaggregated data for reporting
2. budget sufficient resources to implement and monitor the GES
3. require gender focal points on CCMs
4. require gender analysis to be a conditionality of the concept note

The participants look forward to advancing these recommendations with the Global Fund. They kindly request an opportunity to meet with the Executive Director and his senior team at their earliest convenience and trust that the Global Fund will identify all possible opportunities to engage with women’s rights advocates in particular women living with HIV and TB and affected by malaria, in order to advance our shared values and ambitions and secure the maximum impact of investments through the Global Fund.

With kind regards

Robin Gorna, Luisa Orza

*ASAP and ATHENA Network,* ***on behalf of the women attending the global retreat***