

**Statement from Ambassador Eric Goosby on the High Level Panel Report on the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
September 19, 2011**

Every day, Global Fund-supported programs contribute to preventing thousands of new infections, and the Fund has saved millions of lives to date. It is tragic when funds are not used as effectively as they should be to save more lives, and it is outrageous that support for so many people in need could be jeopardized by the fraud and abuse of a few.

The United States feels strongly that the Fund must act vigorously to prevent and root out fraud and abuse and to improve its operations, so more lives are saved. That's why the U.S. has been leading the charge for reforms that demand transparency, accountability, and performance so Global Fund money gets to those in need and has the greatest impact on health. Thanks to the leadership of the U.S. and other nations, the Fund has begun implementing a comprehensive agenda of serious reforms, including creating the High Level Panel to provide a fresh outside look at the Fund's oversight systems.

We are still fully reviewing the panel's findings and recommendations. However, it appears that it is the assessment of the High Level Panel, led by former HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt and former Botswana President Festus Mogae, that the identified problems can be effectively dealt with if actions are swift, decisive and meaningful. The key recommendations are on target, and the Global Fund must move quickly to adopt them and take the steps needed to ensure they are implemented fully and effectively in order to make good on its core mandate of saving lives. In adopting the Panel's recommendations, we must ensure we preserve the Fund's commitment to transparency and accountability, including through an independent Office of the Inspector General that has the authority to transmit its findings to the public.

I strongly encourage the Board to adopt the Panel's key recommendations at our upcoming Board meeting and put solid deadlines in place to ensure very clear accountability. The U.S. will monitor the Global Fund's progress in adopting and implementing its full reform agenda, with a special focus on the High Level Panel's recommendations. As we stated when the U.S. made its historic three-year pledge last year, our continued support is tied to the Global Fund's ability to enact reforms that root out fraud and abuse and improve the impact of the Fund's programs in saving lives.