

News Release (19th September 2025)

“More Now Than Ever! It's Time for the Government of Japan to Strengthen Contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria” - 6,175 Signatures Submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare Japan



CSOs submit a petition supported by 6,175 signatories to Vice-Minister

TOKYO, Sept 19 - Africa Japan Forum (AJF) submitted a petition signed by 6,175 Japanese citizens to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW), which calls on the Government of Japan to strengthen contributions to Eighth Replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund). AJF, a Japanese civil society organization (CSO) that promotes collaboration and cooperation between African and Japanese civil society, presented the petition to Hon. Mr. Hisashi Matsumoto, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs at MoFA on the morning of September 19, and to Dr. Masami Sakoi, Vice Minister for Health and the Chief Medical and Global Health Officer at MHLW on the evening of the

same day.

The public petition, conducted by AJF with the support of the Japan NGO-Trade Union International Collaboration Forum since late April, received more than 6,000 signatures over five months, a clear demonstration of many Japanese people's concerns about the rising threats of global infectious diseases, such as AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and the importance of building resilient health and community systems.

“While global efforts to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria have progressed steadily over the past 25 years, the situation is now facing a critical turning point, as support from key donors such as the United States and some European countries has sharply declined in recent times,” said Masaki Inaba, Co-chair of AJF. This sudden reduction in development assistance for health has raised significant concerns about an increase in new infections and deaths from the three major infectious diseases, as well as greater emergence and spread of drug-resistant viruses and pathogens worldwide.

During the submission of the petition, Mr. Inaba said, “The Global Fund, which was established with Japan's support, has achieved the most effective investments toward ending the three major infectious diseases through a partnership-based fundraising model which includes not only traditional donor countries but also countries from the Global South, the private sector, foundations and philanthropic bodies. To prevent a global re-emergence of the three diseases and safeguard a healthier future for all, it is essential we ensure a fully resourced Global Fund. I sincerely hope for Japan's strengthened leadership in this matter.”

During the presentation of the petition to MoFA in the morning, Hon. Mr. Matsumoto, Parliamentary Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, acknowledged that tackling and reducing infectious diseases worldwide also protects the lives of Japanese citizens, and stated that the Japanese government would make every effort to do so.



The signed petition was submitted to Dr. Sakoi from the Ministry of Health, Labor

During the meeting in the evening, Dr. Sakoi, Vice-Minister for Health, mentioned his involvement in the establishment of the Global Fund, and affirmed the critical importance of infectious disease countermeasures, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. He expressed Japan's commitment to tackling this issue diligently, even as countries, including Japan, navigate a period of fiscal adjustments.