

*GRAN was represented at the Global Fund Replenishment Conference hosted in Montreal on September 16th and 17th by Pat Dolan, member of the AWMG and the LT. What a great pleasure it was to be a witness to the world coming together for the common good. Almost \$13 Billion was pledged for the Global Fund 2017 to 2019 period, which the Fund estimates will mean 8 million lives saved. Imagine the level of excitement, hope and optimism this created at the conference.*

*Prime Minister Trudeau was held up by the likes of Bono, Bill Gates and Ban Ki-Moon as leading the way to #EndItForGood, the slogan for the replenishment. Some notable quotes from Trudeau - "poverty is sexist", "pledge with compassion, with ambition and with hope". An additional quote from the PM's web site: "Canada is committed to creating a fairer world for the most vulnerable – especially women and girls – and will continue to challenge world leaders to step up and contribute to the Global Fund, and address the gender inequality that fuels these epidemics".*

*Speaker after speaker spoke about the need to focus on key populations, especially women and girls, as being most vulnerable, because of the discrimination and poverty they face. Mark Dybul, head of the Global Fund, said that HIV and TB are diseases of society, born of inequity and discrimination. As a GRAN participant, this was all great to hear, especially the focus on human rights and the goal of social justice.*

*In terms of the actual pledging, it was wonderful to see a number of African countries stepping up and making pledges to the Fund. Notably, the replenishment also saw a doubling of private sector and foundation contributions. Red (created by Bono and Bobby Shriver) pledged \$100M, the Gates Foundation \$600M. Larger economies, like the US, UK, Germany and France increased their contributions. Qatar made its first contribution to the Fund of \$10M. Many donors welcomed a stronger focus on improving health systems in the GF strategic plan.*

*Canada's contribution of \$804M includes targeted funds to create an on-line marketplace for pooled purchases of medicines. (More info needed on this, but it is indeed interesting that Canada would put some focus on access to medicines as part of its contribution.)*

*Canadian civil society organizations were invited to a side event with Ministers Bibeau, Philpott to discuss moving forward on SDG3 - global health and well-being. The two Ministers spent more than 2 hours with the group, but it was a fairly stage-managed event, so difficult to raise specific points - other than in the small table discussions - and these were not recorded. The side event, "Sharpening our Focus: human rights and key populations", sponsored by a number of GRAN partners (ICAD, Gfan, ICASO, Results), featured many speakers, including Minister Bibeau, Mark Dybul and Stephen Lewis. The panel was moderated by Richard Elliott. It introduced many of the themes that would flow through the conference of social justice, women and girls.*

Thank you for the opportunity to attend this event which was so focused on solutions and working towards a more just world, with Canada showing its leadership and generosity.

Pat

(Photos above: 1) Side event on SDG3 with Minister Bibeau and Minister Philpott, 2) PM Trudeau launching the pledging session, by saying, "Pledge with compassion, with ambition and with hope". 3) Bono saying, "There will be no end to poverty unless we invest in women and girls".

3 Attachments