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May 19th 2009

Hon. Ambassador
United States of America
P.O.BOX 9123
Dar Es Salaam

RE: Submission of press statement calling for USA to increase funding to global health programs.

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to submit our statement of opinion calling for the US administration to step up funding to global health programs; PEPFAR and Global Fund for AIDS TB and Malaria, as part of fulfilling a campaign promise by President Obama. This is not only about a campaign promise, but also the USA's moral leadership around the world in global health. **Through your good office, we pray you submit our voices to President Obama and congress that the decision to flat fund or decrease funding is a grave one.**

Under-funding the global health programs will have grave consequences, especially during the current global economic crisis, where unemployment is increasing and foreign aid, tax revenue and demand for exports are decreasing. Consequently household income is decreasing, government is cutting its budget and the capacity to deliver services of NGOs and the private sector is decreasing.

Sincerely, yours,

Dr. Peter Bujari
Executive Chair
Tanzania AIDS Forum

CC:

1. Country coordinator
UNAIDS
2. Executive chairperson
TACAIDS Dar ES Salaam
3. Permanent secretary
Ministry of health and social welfare Dar Es Salaam
4. Chairperson
Permanent Secretary Prime Minister office
5. Chairperson
Parliamentary committee for HIV and AIDS