COMMUNITIES DELEGATION APPOINTS NEW BOARD MEMBER AND ALTERNATE BOARD MEMBER

The Communities Living with HIV and affected by Tuberculosis and Malaria Delegation (Communities Delegation) to the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) announces the appointment of its incoming Board Member – Ms. Maurine Murenga, and Alternate Board Member – Ms. Erika Castellanos. With the start of their tenure on the 1st June 2018, the Communities Delegation will be led by an all-female leadership, joined by incumbent Communications Focal point, Ms. Rachel Ong from Singapore.

As the incoming Board Member, Maurine succeeds Mr. Rico Gustav (from Indonesia and based in the Netherlands) whose term began in July 2016. Maurine is openly living with HIV and based in Nairobi, Kenya. She has been a member of the Communities Delegation since 2013 and is currently the Alternate Board Member of the Communities Delegation. Maurine is the Executive Director of Lean on Me Foundation that provides comprehensive care and support to adolescent girls and young women living with HIV and affected by Tuberculosis. She has an extensive background working on community development and is a passionate advocate for health, development, and the rights of women and girls living with HIV.

The tenure of the incoming Board Member coincides with the 6th Replenishment of the Global Fund, and Maurine reiterates her commitment in ensuring the success of the upcoming replenishment in 2019. “The Global Fund remains a key pillar in the fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria. Our tremendous success in saving lives and restoring health can only be sustained if we reach all that are vulnerable to the three epidemics. To win this fight, we not only need increased partnerships, and also increased political and financial commitment from existing donors and implementers”, says Maurine.

Erika is a transgender woman living with HIV from Belize based in the Netherlands and is currently the Director of Programmes for Global Action for Trans* Equality (GATE) where she contributes towards the work of GATE on human rights, depathologization, movement building, and the international HIV response. Erika joined the Communities Delegation in 2016.

As the first openly transgender advocate to become a Member of the Board of the Global Fund, which is unprecedented in the history of the Global Fund. Erika says, “Trans communities are one of the most affected populations...
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globally by the HIV epidemic. I am delighted and honoured to be appointed as the Alternate Board Member of the Communities Delegation and hope that during my term, the issues on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) are heard and championed in the global HIV response. My commitment is to ensure that the realities of all communities living with HIV, and affected by Tuberculosis and malaria are heard and addressed at the Global Fund Board level.”

The Communities Delegation also takes this opportunity to thank Rico for his unwavering dedication, strategic leadership, technical expertise, and integrity towards effectively advancing the issues of the Delegation during his tenure as the Board Member. We are pleased that Rico will continue to serve the Delegation as a member after his term.

For more information about this news release, please contact the Communications Focal Point of the Communities Delegation – Ms Rachel Ong by email at rachel.ong@globalfundcommunitiesdelegation.org, or office phone +41 (22) 575 4822.

The role of the Communities Living with HIV and affected by Tuberculosis and Malaria Delegation (Communities Delegation) is to advocate, influence, and shape the decisions on the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund). This is so that communities living with HIV, and affected by Tuberculosis and malaria can gain equitable access to quality services and support needed to prevent, treat, and/or live with these infections within a conducive environment that respects human rights. www.globalfundcommunitiesdelegation.org