

- **Your Excellency, President Paul Kagame,**
- **Honourable Ministers,**
- **Executive Director of the Global Fund, Professor Michael Kazatchkine,**
- **UN Special Envoy for Malaria, Mr. Ray Chambers,**
- **Chairman of Friends Africa Board, Mr. Aig,**
- **Members of the Private Sector,**
- **Members of the Health Community,**
- **Distinguished Guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good evening,

On behalf of Friends of the Global Fund Africa, I welcome you all to Rwanda and to this Private Sector Summit. I would like to express my appreciation to the Government of Rwanda for the generosity and willingness to host this important event.

Mr President, gathered here tonight are outstanding business men and women who have come from different corners of Africa and the world, driven by the understanding of the need to confront global health challenges in order to save lives. Their participation illustrates the shared

spirit that although the bottom line is about profit, giving back to the continent in a sustainable way is not only necessary but adds value to corporations and the communities in which they operate.

Also present are individuals whose dedication and diligence in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Africa has resulted in some of the best health initiatives and policies on the continent. We are delighted to have you all here, and thank you for the noble work you continue to do.

The Global Fund, led by Professor Michael Kazatchkine, continues to blaze a trail in its untiring support to ending HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis worldwide. The Fund's results-oriented approach is saving and improving the lives of many; the difference you are making in Rwanda is certainly felt, and is much appreciated.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

In 2006, Friends Africa was launched here in Rwanda and four years on we continue to strive to build support for the Global Fund. We have asked you, our guests, to join us here today because we believe firmly in the

importance of African private sector engagement with the health of our continent. In the ongoing struggle to control, eradicate and find a cure for HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, Africa's wealth can, and should, contribute to Africa's health. There is no doubt that the combined efforts of the private sector and the public sector advance our struggle – we have seen this partnership in action and witnessed its positive impact. But there is more to be done.

For time immemorial, all over the world, businesses have paid their taxes to governments – not always very enthusiastically – and in return, have expected delivery of public services. Indeed, this is how it should be.

Faced with unprecedented and urgent health catastrophes such as HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria on our continent, we not only need to listen to our inherent nature to give, we are obliged to move beyond “business as usual”. A renewed partnership between the public and private sector in Africa for the benefit of our people's health can only lead to stronger communities and stronger nations.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am pleased to say that the members of the Board of Friends Africa are walking the talk. I wish to commend their generous financial contributions and mobilization efforts, which have set the bar and started what I trust, will be a chain reaction by members of the private sector. Our Board Chair Mr. Aig contributed \$ 1 million through Access Bank, Mr. Ken Ofori Atta \$100,000 through Databank Financial Services; Mr. Chris Kirubi \$12,000 and General Yakubu Gowon mobilized the Nigerian government to contribute \$10 million.

I hope that this Summit can be replicated in other African countries. Investing in the cause of health makes the private sector part of the dialogue on this issue and gives you a voice with which to positively influence policymaking, ultimately making you an important player in turning the aspirations and plans for our continent into reality.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Simply put, we are all in this struggle for our own good, and the good of our continent. It is this precious mindset that will surely amplify our efforts in the battle against HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

It may be more compelling to save a face to which you can put a name, but there is nothing more noble than saving many more that you may never know.

I thank you all once again for honouring our invitation and for being part of the solution.