

Communities Delegation

to the Board of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

GLOBAL FUND 44TH BOARD MEETING CONSTITUENCY STATEMENT

The Communities Delegation commends all the efforts and achievements of the Global Fund, Secretariat, partners and implementers amidst all the challenges that 2020 brought our way. We appreciate all efforts made to protect the response to HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, the creation of funding mechanisms like C19RM and the flexibilities provided. [The Communities Delegation extends a special recognition to all civil society and communities that have played a vital role in the response to COVID-19 around the world and efforts to mitigate the negative effect of the pandemic to the HIV, tuberculosis and malaria responses. We call for the Global Fund to continue recognizing the vital role of communities and value our wide ranging expertise as equal partners, not just as passive beneficiaries and for the adequate remuneration of the work carried out by communities.](#)

The Communities Delegation hereby takes the opportunity to submit our comments on the agenda items for the 44th Board Meeting for consideration:

GF/B44/03 Report of the Executive Director:

The Communities Delegation welcomes and appreciates the comprehensive report of the Executive Director and commend the work of Peter Sands and the Secretariat in 2020, particularly actions around business continuity amidst COVID-19. We note the delays in TRP submission, the ongoing logistical constraints, in-country capacity etc. and we look forward to hearing about the successes and lessons learned on the interim arrangements and flexibilities offered on grant signing to ensure there are no interruptions in service provision and grant implementation at country level.

The delegation acknowledges that despite the current challenges, we see a forecast in increased allocations. We are however worried about the quality of applications submitted and the observations of the TRP on the weaknesses of the investment in community systems as well as the limited focus on human rights and gender, and thus request to explore with the Secretariat opportunities for the implementation of innovative solutions to close these gaps. The intense time constraints for signing the next Funding request should not be used as an excuse for insufficient focus on recommendations made by the TRP on CRG challenges.

The Communities Delegation remains concerned with the resurgence of human rights related barriers to accessing health services for key populations, increased stigma and gender based



violence and the diversion of HIV, TB and Malaria resources to COVID-19. We request that the Board be informed on how these issues will be addressed.

We are particularly worried about the increasing new HIV infections, the 3 million undiagnosed TB cases and 1.5 million TB related deaths annually, and the alarming deaths as a result of malaria in high burden countries. **Whilst COVID-19 is cited as a main cause of missing the targets, could it also be that the extreme focus on COVID-19 is one of the reasons for missing the targets?** To this matter, we echo the statement of the Developing Country NGO Delegation that 'the Board now needs to critically assess and prioritise the extent of our response to COVID-19, to ensure that we remain on track with our core mission related to HIV, TB and malaria.'

Finally, the Communities Delegation looks forward to updates and results in the investing in people initiatives mentioned in the report.

GF/B44/07 Development of the Next Global Fund Strategy:

The Communities Delegation regards the process for the next Global Fund Strategy as high priority. We have previously provided comments on the results of our community consultations in our constituency statements, and in addition will separately submit a full report of our community consultations for the New Strategy.

In regards to process we would like to highlight the following:

1. We express disappointment with the process during the Board retreat. We approached the discussions with the expectations of reaching some agreements, which did not happen;
2. Our Delegation is concerned with the significant focus on COVID-19 in Strategy development conversations. We recommend that we take a step aside from the narrow focus on COVID-19 and start planning for a future of the HIV, TB and malaria response that takes into consideration external factors (climate, political unrest, forced migration etc.) but does not limit itself into 1 biological factor that may very likely present very different circumstances in the near future;
3. The Global Fund must address the fragility of the HIV, TB and malaria response that has been made evident during the COVID-19 pandemic and must work towards resilient health systems;
4. The Communities Delegation strongly supports maintaining the focus on the 3 diseases within the context of an evolving world;
5. We call on the Global Fund to focus on building the capacity of key and vulnerable populations and to provide resources and technical assistance for effective engagement and representation in the CCMs;
6. We call for deliberate efforts to efficiently fund community and key population led services and for the Global Fund to fulfill the global commitment that at least 30% of all service delivery is community-led by 2030;
7. We underline the need to ensure responsible transitions that take into consideration the realities and needs of communities and key populations;
8. The Global Fund must likewise ensure meaningful engagement of communities in the Partnership Forums.



The Communities Delegation would like to recognize the outstanding work of the Secretariat in relation to SOGI. This is evident in the Partnership Fora application forms. We have received extremely positive feedback from the transgender community and request that the Secretariat broadly adopts the use of gender inclusive language in all processes that require demographics of applicants and/or respondents.

GF/B44/10 Report of the Coordinating Group:

The Communities Delegation appreciates the report of the Coordinating Group, particularly the actions taken for effective transition and multiple reflections the Coordinating Group engaged in. We request that the Coordinating Group conduct an assessment of the actions taken for effective transition and share any lessons learned. We note the extensive reflections of the Coordinating Group on Committees ways of working and governance continuity, and would like to get a sense of their actionable suggestions and recommendations as this will help steer conversations and decision making at the Board level.

GF/B44/17 Update on Resource Mobilization:

The Communities Delegation applauds and appreciates the work of the Secretariat on resource mobilization but would appreciate some clarity on the priorities for the next few months as it seems they are all concentrated in resource mobilization for COVID-19. We have lost significant gains on the 3 epidemics and this will require additional resources to get back on track. We also note that there are no red flags in relation to pledges for the current allocation period, however, we would like to hear from the Secretariat what mitigating actions may be taken to reduce possible delays given the fiscal constraints of many countries.

