



Briefing Paper on the Partnership Forum of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria

What is The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria?

The Global Fund is a Swiss Foundation, created to attract, manage and disburse additional resources through a new public-private partnership that will make a sustainable and significant contribution to the reduction of infections, illness and death, thereby mitigating the impact caused by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in countries in need, and contributing to poverty reduction as part of the Millennium Development Goals.

What is the Partnership Forum?

The Partnership Forum is identified in the Global Fund bylaws as one of its four governing, administrative, and advisory bodies. The others are the Board of Directors, the Secretariat and the Technical Review Panel, which meets regularly to review proposals submitted to the Global Fund.

The Partnership Forum shall be convened periodically in order to provide persons and entities concerned about the prevention, care, treatment and eventual eradication of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, a forum to express their views on the Foundation's policies and strategies. (Article 6.1 of the Bylaws)

What are the functions of the Partnership Forum?

- To review progress based on reports from the Foundation Board and to provide advice to the Foundation on general policies;
- To provide an important and visible platform for debate, advocacy, continued fund raising, and inclusion of new partners;
- To mobilize and sustain high level coordination, political commitment and momentum to achieve the Fund's objectives; and
- To provide a communication channel for those stakeholders who are not formally represented elsewhere in the governance structure. (Article 6.2 of the Bylaws)

It is intended to serve as a **public forum for supporting and improving** the Fund and an opportunity for the Fund's Board and Secretariat to hear from stakeholders an assessment of the Fund's activities to date. The Forum should also include both progress reports from the Secretariat on what has been achieved and reports from the 'frontline' on the realities of implementation. To this end the Forum needs to ensure a broad range of voices are heard, providing access to those who may otherwise have difficulty accessing the governance processes of the Fund.

How will it be organized?

The Partnership Forum is both an ongoing process of communication with stakeholders and a public meeting to be held every two years. The first public meeting will take place in Bangkok,

Thailand from July 7-8, 2004 immediately preceding the International Conference on HIV/AIDS. It will be an important opportunity for stakeholders to review the progress of the Global Fund two and a half years after its creation, and to discuss together whether the Global Fund is working effectively to meet its core objectives.

The ongoing process is under development, and will promote input to the Global Fund through regional meetings, online discussions, and written submissions.

Who will take part?

Participation in the Forum will be open to a wide range of stakeholders that share the Foundation's objectives, including representatives of affected communities, civil society, non-governmental and community based organizations, donors, multilateral development cooperation agencies, developed and developing countries, technical and research agencies, foundations, and the private sector. In order to facilitate a true dialogue, the Forum seeks to balance inclusion of a wide range of voices with a reasonable number of participants. This will include some processes to promote fair representation of all stakeholders and constituencies. Scholarships will also be available to promote fair and equal access. (Information on the Forum and access to online discussions are available through the Global Fund's web site at www.theglobalfund.org/en/about/forum or by contact the Global Fund secretariat at 0041-22-7911700.