

# **Report of the Coordinating Group 51<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting**

GF/B51/17

25-26 April 2024, Geneva, Switzerland

## **Board Information**

Purpose of the paper: This report provides a summary update on Coordinating Group activities for the period between the 50<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Board Meetings (November 2023 to April 2024), and an overview of decisions taken by the three committees in this period.

## Context

1. This report provides an update on the activities of the Global Fund Coordinating Group (“CG”). The CG comprises the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board and each of the committees. As identified in its Terms of Reference,<sup>1</sup> the CG is a mechanism for coordination between the Board and its committees, particularly regarding cross-cutting issues. The overall objective of the CG is to enable strategic focus across all governance bodies and to establish broad priorities.
2. Since the CG’s last report to the Board in November 2023, the CG held three meetings<sup>2</sup> and will convene in April to prepare for the 51<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting and the Board Retreat.
3. A list of **decisions adopted by the standing Committees** between the 50<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Board Meetings (November 2023 – April 2024) is included in the Annex. Current **Board and committee work plans and minutes of CG meetings** will be made available on the Governance Hub.

## Focus areas for the Coordinating Group

4. CG activity since November 2023 has focused on the following:
  - i. Review of the 2024 governance priorities and plans, including Board and committee meeting agendas, including alignment on the approach to consider Lusaka Agenda themes in governance engagements;
  - ii. Continued focus on cross cutting matters and their coordination between committees;
  - iii. Planning and preparation for the Board Retreat scheduled to be held in April 2024;
  - iv. Consideration of governance effectiveness, including observations from the preliminary report on Governance Performance Assessment;
  - v. Discussion on strengthening Global Fund Board representation; and
  - vi. Receipt of regular reporting on committee self-assessment outcomes and trends.
5. **Board and committee priorities, including attention to the effective management of cross-cutting matters**, was a key focus for the CG. The CG provided input into the planning of governance topics throughout 2024, including on preparations of the 24<sup>th</sup> committee meetings, the 51<sup>st</sup> Board meeting and Board Retreat agendas. The CG also discussed how to approach themes emerging from the Lusaka agenda, including the preparation for the first joint Board call on malaria with Gavi, on 8 April 2024. The CG observed that governance agendas are full, with many strategic discussions requiring the urgent attention of the Board.
6. **Themes from the Lusaka Agenda, the Global Fund Strategy and Board and Committee agendas**. The CG acknowledged the diverse views expressed during the informal Board call regarding the Future of Global Health Initiatives process and outcome and discussed the links between the Lusaka Agenda and the Global Fund Strategy. The primacy of the Global Fund Strategy was accentuated, and it was noted that many of the Lusaka Agenda themes fall within the

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<sup>1</sup> [Terms of Reference of the Coordinating Group](#)

<sup>2</sup> In terms of regular attendees for CG meetings, the Executive Director (ED) and the Head of Legal and Governance are invited to CG discussions to allow consideration of Secretariat perspectives, with other members of management invited only if needed for specific topics. The Legal and Governance Department provides meeting support. CG communicate between meetings as needed, and there is regular interaction between the Board Leadership and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Committees.

Global Fund Strategy. The role of the Global Fund governance was highlighted to further engage on the nuances of these themes and to discuss those not yet covered. The CG appreciated that many themes contained within the Lusaka Agenda are already scheduled to be discussed by Governance bodies in 2024, given upcoming strategic discussions and decisions. Additional, dedicated space was created on Governance meetings in 2024 to discuss additional themes and the Lusaka Agenda, including governance considerations. The CG welcomed the guidance from the EGC and the SC following the March committee meetings that will be reported to the Board for further engagement.

7. **Joint working group.** The CG considered input from both EGC and SC on a proposed joint working group on the four work streams with Gavi and Global Financing Facility (GFF). The SC expressed its support for a committee level working group with membership from governance representatives from all three organizations focused on the four workstreams<sup>3</sup>. The EGC emphasized that a joint working group should have a clearly defined rationale, terms of reference, be situated within existing governance structures and be subject to a selection process consistent with the principle of inclusive representation. The Secretariat provided an update on the development of terms of reference for the joint working group based on initial discussions with Gavi. Further consultation with committees, Gavi and GFF will take place in due course.
8. **Cross-cutting topics.** The CG continued its focus on cross cutting topics<sup>4</sup> across all committees, including Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) matters. Whilst undertaking a holistic review of both aspects under the purview of the Ethics and Governance Committee (EGC) and those under the Strategy Committee (SC), the CG reiterated the need to ensure alignment and absence of duplication between the two committees. In line with their respective mandates, the CG acknowledged that the EGC will continue to examine the governance and ethics related aspects of CCMs, and the SC will continue to look at implementation effectiveness.
9. **Planning and preparation for the Board Retreat scheduled to be held in April 2024.** The CG noted that, following up from the Board mini retreat in November last year, the April Board Retreat will be a key opportunity for the Board to discuss continued delivery of the strategy, the strategic positioning and role of the Global Fund. The CG considered the feedback received from the Board at the mini-retreat and noted that this should inform the preparations for the April Board retreat.
10. **Consideration of governance effectiveness, including observations from the preliminary report on Governance Performance Assessment.** The CG reflected on approaches to enhance governance effectiveness, based on discussions of the mini-Board retreat and key themes emerging from the preliminary report on Governance Performance Assessment. The CG appreciated the observation in the preliminary report regarding the improved maturity of the governance processes at the Global Fund. It was observed that the Board and the Secretariat should continue to work together to ensure continued governance effectiveness and efficiency. The CG touched on some themes, including (i) the concept of duty of care; (ii) effective constituency engagement and resource disparities (iii) further leveraging work of the committees and ensuring Board discussions are at the right strategic level, with careful considerations of prioritization and

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<sup>3</sup> Malaria, Health Systems Strengthening, Country Engagement and Back Office.

<sup>4</sup> Other cross cutting themes that were discussed include (i) risk; (ii) key performance indicators; (iii) Lusaka agenda themes;(iv) Pandemic Preparedness and Response/C19RM/engagement with the Pandemic Fund; and (v) sustainability.

tradeoffs; and (iv) further strengthening a culture of trust, accountability, and collaboration, founded on a sense of collective responsibility in support of the Global Fund mission. They concluded that the April Board Retreat presents an opportunity to explore some of these areas further to enhance governance effectiveness; and provided early input on already addressing certain findings, particularly around evolving discussions between committee and Board to minimize any duplicative discussions.

11. **Strengthening Board Representation.** After the initial discussion at the November Board mini-retreat, the CG took note of the various points raised by the Board. The CG reiterated need to further engage on themes of representation and governance effectiveness, inclusion and voice, and constituency effectiveness. The CG noted the appointment of the independent consultants for the review of Board representation, in line with guidance provided by the EGC, and looks forward to the results of the review, and initial discussions at the April Board Retreat and meeting.

## Committee Priorities

12. The key themes and priorities of focus for the three committees are outlined below. Full Chair's reports following each committee meeting are available at the locations noted below.
13. **Audit and Finance Committee.** At the March Audit and Finance Committee (AFC) meeting, the committee continued its focus on recurring items, decisions as well as ad-hoc topics.
  - a. **Financial management, external audit, and internal audit.** The committee received updates on financial key performance indicators (KPIs)<sup>5</sup> and financial performance of the organization through 31 December 2023. The Secretariat and the committee also discussed the timing for a portfolio optimization decision by the committee.
    - i. Looking to 2024, the AFC approved the 2024 external audit plan, noting the need to discuss some of the additional audit service areas and fees later in the year.
    - ii. On Office of the Inspector General matters, the committee discussed the OIG's Annual Report and progress regarding Agreed Management Actions (AMAs)
    - iii. In relation to the Lusaka agenda, committee endorsement was sought on the proposed Public Financial Management (PFM) adoption strategy<sup>6</sup>.
  - b. **Resource Mobilization and planning for 8<sup>th</sup> Replenishment.** The committee discussed the additional pledges, the pledge conversion efforts, the preparation for the Eighth Replenishment and the volatile and high-risk fundraising environment. Emphasis was placed on balancing the ambition alongside realism and risk while preparing for the replenishment. Importance of a strong Investment Case, which clearly reflects Global Fund's strengths, from the organization's country-based partnership model, continuing to deliver on its mission, was also noted.
  - c. **Procurement Policy.** The AFC also made a recommendation to the Board to update the Procurement Policy, to reflect updated procurement practices, refined principles to guide procurement activities and to facilitate more efficient implementation.
  - d. **Corporate management and operations.** The AFC also discussed people and organization annual report. Some themes highlighted include increasing trajectory of workforce related risk and the need for prioritization and streamlining and workforce planning considering the end of

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<sup>5</sup> 2023-2028 KPI Framework.

<sup>6</sup> [Lusaka Agenda](#) – near term priority: Global aligning with and using government systems, including accelerating efforts to align behind one national plan, one budget, and one M&E system.

C19RM implementation. The committee also received an update on the financial and operational aspects related to procurement.

- e. Overall, the AFC continued to reiterate the urgent need for streamlining and prioritization, considering the increasing workload at the implementer and Secretariat levels. Some AFC members highlighted the importance of having more avenues for trade off discussions and need for allocating more time to discuss strategic agenda items while reducing the level of effort on routine reporting.
- f. Looking forward, the AFC will continue its focus on areas such as financial oversight, including portfolio optimization, operating expenses budget, internal and external audit areas, including performance assessment of external auditors, OIG and risk matters, resource mobilization and other oversight areas (e.g. information technology, health financing, etc.).

*The report of the discussions of the AFC at its 24<sup>th</sup> meeting will be made available on the Governance Hub.*

14. **Ethics and Governance Committee.** The EGC will continue to steer on and drive forward monitoring of governance effectiveness, maturity, strengthening activities and oversight of ethics related items. The key areas discussed at the March meeting are the following:
  - a. Discussed and provided guidance on parameters for Strategic Priority and Agenda Setting including for external initiatives such as the Lusaka agenda themes.
  - b. Discussed findings from the **preliminary report on Governance Performance Assessment** and provided input to the independent consultants to consider for the next iteration of the report. The themes from the preliminary report will be then presented to the Board for deliberation in April 2024. The EGC received a brief update on the upcoming individual Board Chair and Vice-Chair performance assessments,
  - c. Strengthening Global Fund Board representation, with an initial conversation with the independent review team. The external team commented and sought preliminary steer from the EGC on (i) the proposed approach, methodology and expectations for the advisory review, including the definition of the problem statement and benchmarking and (ii) process steps and timeline.
  - d. Received an update on the completion of the Governance Action Plan 2.0, from the last comprehensive Governance Performance Assessment, with focus on operational workstreams. Throughout the Plan implementation its different initiatives and workstreams have contributed to advance Global Fund governance effectiveness and maturity.
  - e. Taking into consideration initial findings of the CCM Evolution Assessment, and previous discussions by the informal CCM Working Group formed by EGC and SC members, the EGC discussed norms and standards for good governance, ethical decision-making, representation and engagement matters. EGC input was shared with the SC, for consideration during its separate dedicated session on broader CCM matters. The CG will further discuss how the committees will oversee CCM priorities, in line with SC and/or EGC respective mandates and taking into consideration resources available.
  - f. The EGC welcomed the new Ethics Officer - Michelle Beistle to her first Global Fund committee meeting. The EGC discussed the 2024 Ethics Officer Opinion and progress update. The EGC voiced general comfort with key messages and explanation outlined in the Annual Report and Opinion and progress achieved so far. The EGC continues its oversight over ethics matters and discussed the closure of the longstanding AMAs, completion of integrity due diligence

framework for implementation and significant improvement in Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH).

- g. On legal matters, EGC received a progress update on privileges and immunities.
- h. Risk: The EGC received updates on governance and ethics risk and efforts for their mitigation. Ethics: The overall risk assessment as reflected in the Annual Risk Report is that the ethics risks (including SEAH) remain high while the direction of travel is expected to be steady; Governance: Residual risk for governance risk remains moderate and steady with no change since Q2 2022. Currently there are no material delays to report on risk mitigation.
- i. The EGC will continue to take forward some of the themes including finalizing the Governance Performance Assessment and developing the next Governance Action Plan with prioritization of key matters to take forward, strengthening Board representation, preparations for selection processes, CCM topics within its mandate, and ethics and legal matters.

*The report of the discussions of the EGC at its 24<sup>th</sup> meeting will be made available on the Governance Hub.*

- 15. **Strategy Committee.** The SC will continue to engage on its four main areas of function including core business processes, monitoring and performance, work of the advisory bodies, and thematic areas.
  - a. **Core business processes.** The SC carefully considered and recommended Quality Assurance Policy for Vector Control Products and Related Equipment to the Board. This is the final step in the comprehensive review of Global Fund quality assurance policies<sup>7</sup>.
  - b. **Thematic Areas.** At the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, the SC discussed several key thematic areas such as CCM performance, Lusaka Agenda and Sustainability.
    - i. Cross cutting theme of CCM Evolution Performance was discussed with topics under the committee's mandate. There were discussions on the maturity and operational efficiency of CCMs, with calls for further strengthening of the role of civil societies and communities. The committees will continue to discuss this topic and will be brought to the Board at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting.
    - ii. The SC also received a written update on set-asides including coordination with partners and their priorities and contributions to the Global Fund strategy (2023-2028) in Grant Cycle 7. This was a SC request in order to have visibility on the important and complementary work of donor contributions through set-asides.
    - iii. Areas like Sustainability, Lusaka Agenda, and Global Fund – Gavi – GFF coordination, including the proposed joint working group were discussed at the SC. The SC supported the development of a joint committee working group to further the effort of four workstreams with GAVI and GFF including the malaria collaboration with Gavi. Terms of Reference will be drafted based on continued discussions between the Global Fund, Gavi and GFF. Details of the discussion and efforts will be brought to the April Board Meeting and Retreat (please refer to the separate pre-read material).
  - c. **Oversight over advisory bodies.** The SC receives regular updates from the Technical Review Panel (TRP) and evaluation function including the Independent Evaluation Panel (IEP), as part of its oversight role.
    - i. The committee discussed TRP matters, including findings of the TRP Performance

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<sup>7</sup> Quality Assurance Policy for Pharmaceutical Products and Quality Assurance Policy for Medical Devices (including In Vitro Diagnostics) and Core Personal Protective Equipment was approved by the Board at its 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting (November 2023) -[GF/B50/DP06](#).

Assessment. The SC appreciated the engagement of the TRP with Gavi's Independent Review Committee, particularly on malaria, and noted the opportunity for it to also support RSSH. At the July SC meeting, the SC Working Group on TRP matters will be established to prepare for replenishment of the TRP membership and related aspects, including review of TRP TORs, in line with established practice.

- ii. The SC also discussed evaluation matters including the Independent Evaluation Panel Annual Report, Strategic Review 2023 Final Report and the Allocation Methodology Evaluation Review and the plans and timelines for making decisions in committee and ultimately with the Board of the Allocation Methodology for the 2026-2028 grant cycle.
- d. **Monitoring and performance.** The SC reviewed both the results of the strategic performance reporting and the ongoing improvements for Board constituency access to results, country funding and catalytic investments and risk management, all topics under its purview.
- e. In the rest of the year, the SC will focus on several matters including the Allocation Methodology, TRP operations (including setting up on the TRP Working Group and review of TRP terms of reference), continued monitoring of performance, as well as thematic areas such as HIV, Community Rights and Gender, and RSSH.

The report of the discussions of the SC at its 24<sup>th</sup> meeting can be accessed [here](#).

## How will the Coordinating Group support Board priorities in 2024?

16. The CG will continue to support strategic focus at the Board and committees, with attention to the following:
  - a. Continued attention to how to **best leverage the role of the Board and committees**, amidst the challenging external landscape,
  - b. **Risk oversight**, including dedicated attention to evolving and emerging risk areas, and the effective coordination of risk oversight by the committees and Board to provide a holistic view of risks across the entire risk profile of the Global Fund.
  - c. Attention to key deliverables in 2024, including ensuring effective consultation processes on key Board decisions such as the Allocation Methodology.
17. On governance effectiveness specifically, the CG will engage on **the overall effectiveness of Global Fund governance**, through engagement with the themes emerging from the holistic Governance Performance Assessment 2024 following Board and EGC engagement:
  - i. **Successfully leveraging the role of Committees in order to reduce duplication between Committee and Board.**
  - ii. **Continued efforts on agenda setting with a focus on innovatively balancing routine reporting items with strategic discussions.** Achieving an appropriate level of effort associated with Global Fund governance noting potential asymmetries in available resources across Constituencies to devote to the Global Fund Governance.
  - iii. Focus on overseeing the setting up and governance engagement of both formal and informal working groups.

- iv. **Continued attention to how results are presented to governance bodies** to enable robust oversight of performance against strategic objectives; leveraging the M&E and KPI Frameworks as well as risk management reporting; providing insights into key thematic areas in a joined-up manner; and streamline reporting.
- v. **Use of virtual platforms** like the newly launched Governance Hub and OSKAR to enable constituencies to access more detailed and disaggregated information and to support and prepare for Governance engagements.
- vi. Continued overall **attention to clear, concise, well-structured documentation** that are timely, relevant and appropriate in volume.
- vii. **Governance culture** with particular role for CG members as leaders of governance bodies in ensuring that efforts to enable a culture of trust, accountability and collaboration are embedded across Board and committee ways of working. Attention will be given to reflections on avenues for dynamic exchange between Board Members. There will be efforts to further building a stronger relationship of trust and accountability between the Board and Secretariat, with CG playing a key role particularly around bolstering the sense of trust, duty of care and shared sense of purpose.
- viii. The Board retreat will provide further input to support CG reflection on governance related topics.
- ix. Considering opportunities to showcase partnerships and collaboration, including through joint informal Board calls.



## Annexes

The following items can be found in Annex:

- Annex 1: Decisions of the Audit and Finance Committee, November 2023 – April 2024
- Annex 2: Decisions of the Ethics and Governance Committee, November 2023 – April 2024
- Annex 3: Decisions of the Strategy Committee, November 2023 – April 2024

### Annex 1: Decisions of the Audit and Finance Committee, November 2023 to April 2024

| Decision Points approved by the Audit and Finance Committee between the 50 <sup>th</sup> and 51 <sup>st</sup> Board Meetings |   |
|--|---|
| DP Ref. No.  | Title   |
| <b>24<sup>th</sup> AFC Meeting, 25-26 March 2024</b>   |   |
| GF/AFC24/DP01  | Acceptance by the Audit and Finance Committee of Documents and Responses Relating to the 2023 Annual Financial Statements and 2023 Statutory Financial Statements |
| GF/AFC24/DP02  | External Audit Plan and Fees  |
| GF/AFC24/DP03  | Global Fund Procurement Policy Update   |

#### 24<sup>th</sup> Audit and Finance Committee Meeting Decision Points

**Decision Point: GF/AFC24/DP01: Acceptance by the Audit and Finance Committee of Documents and Responses Relating to the 2023 Annual Financial Statements and 2023 Statutory Financial Statements**

1. Based on its review and discussion, the Audit and Finance Committee (the AFC) accepts:
  - i. the final version of the 2023 Annual Financial Statements, which have been prepared by the Secretariat and audited by KPMG SA, and are included in the 2023 annual financial report as set forth in Annex 1 to GF/AFC24/06A;
  - ii. the final version of the 2023 Statutory Financial Statements, which have been prepared by the Secretariat and audited by KPMG SA, as set forth in Annex 2 to GF/AFC24/06A;
  - iii. the unqualified audit opinions on both the 2023 Annual Financial Statements and the 2023 Statutory Financial Statements, which have been prepared by KPMG SA, and the related conclusions and statements of KPMG SA; and

- iv. the comments and responses by the Secretariat and KPMG SA to the questions and topics of discussion during the AFC’s deliberations.

2. Accordingly, the AFC recommends the following decision points to the Board for its approval at its fifty-first meeting in April 2024:

i. Decision Point: GF/B51/DPXX: 2023 Annual Financial Report

The Board authorizes the issuance of, and therefore approves, the Global Fund’s 2023 Annual Financial Report, including the 2023 Annual Financial Statements which have been audited by KPMG SA, as set forth in Annex 1 to GF/B51/XX.

ii. Decision Point: GF/B51/DPXX: 2023 Statutory Financial Statements

The Board authorizes the issuance of, and therefore approves, the Global Fund’s 2023 Statutory Financial Statements, which have been audited by KPMG SA, as set forth in Annex 2 to GF/B51/XX.

**Decision Point: GF/AFC24/DP02: External Audit Plan and Fees**

Based on its review and discussion, the Audit and Finance Committee (the AFC) approves the External Audit Plan for the year ending 31 December 2024, which has been prepared by KPMG SA, as set forth in GF/AFC24/07B, and acknowledges its earlier approval of the related fee arrangements for the 2022-2024 term, pursuant to GF/AFC19/DP02.

**Decision Point: GF/AFC24/DP03: Global Fund Procurement Policy Update**

1. The Audit and Finance Committee (“AFC”) recognizes that:

- i. In the context of the Global Fund’s effort to drive equitable access to quality assured health products through its NextGen Market Shaping approach, the Secretariat has committed to review existing policies to better deliver the Global Fund’s Strategy; and
- ii. The Secretariat proposes to update the Global Fund Procurement Policy, which sets out the general principles that govern the procurement of goods and services by the Global Fund.

2. Accordingly, the AFC recommends the following decision point to the Board for approval:

Decision Point: GF/B51/DPXX: Global Fund Procurement Policy Update

Based on the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee, the Board approves:

- i. The amended and restated Procurement Policy, which replaces in its entirety the Procurement Policy approved in 2008 through GF/B17/DP21 and the decision point contained in GF/FAC11/03, which sets out the general principles that govern the procurement of goods and services by the Global Fund, as set forth in [Annex 1 to GF/B51/XX]; and
- ii. Delegation of authority from the Board to the Executive Director for operationalization of the Policy; and iii. Delegation of authority to the Secretariat, in consultation with the Audit and Finance Committee Chair and Vice Chair, to make non-material adjustments to the procurement policy referenced above, in line with [Annex 2 to GF/B51/XX] and to report back to the Audit and Finance Committee and Board on all such changes.

In addition, the Board requests period updates from the Secretariat through standard reporting on the operationalization of the Procurement Policy.

## **Annex 2: Decisions of the Ethics and Governance Committee, November 2023 to April 2024**

| <b>Decision Points approved by the Ethics and Governance Committee between the 50<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Board Meetings</b> |  |
|---|--|
| <b>DP Ref. No.</b>  | <b>Title</b>   |
| <b>23<sup>rd</sup> EGC Meeting, 10-11 October 2023</b>  |  |
| GF/EGC23/EDP03  | Performance Assessment of Advisory Bodies of the Global Fund |

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Ethics and Governance Committee Meeting Decision Points**

#### **Decision Point: GF/EGC23/EDP03: Performance Assessment of Advisory Bodies of the Global Fund**

1. Pursuant to the delegated authority from the Board through its decision GF/B41/EDP03, the Ethics and Governance Committee approves the Addendum to the Governance Performance Assessment Framework, as set forth in GF/EGC23/ER02, relating to the performance assessment of Advisory Bodies of the Global Fund.
2. This Addendum supplements, and does not replace any parts of, the Governance Performance Assessment Framework as currently in force.

#### **Budgetary implications (included in, or additional to, OpEx budget):**

The cost of regular performance assessments of Advisory Bodies will be covered by the existing OpEx budget.

## Annex 3: Decisions of the Strategy Committee, November 2023 to April 2024

| Decision Points approved by the Strategy Committee between the 50 <sup>th</sup> and 51 <sup>st</sup> Board Meetings |  |
|---|--|
| DP Ref. No.   | Title  |
| <b>24<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting, 14-15 March 2024</b>   |  |
| GF/SC24/DP01  | Quality Assurance Policy for Vector Control Products |

### 24<sup>th</sup> Strategy Committee Meeting Decision Points

#### **Decision Point: GF/SC24/DP01: Quality Assurance Policy for Vector Control Products**

1. The Strategy Committee (“SC”) recognizes that:
  - i. in the context of the Global Fund’s effort to drive equitable access to quality assured health products through its NextGen Market Shaping approach, the Secretariat has committed to review the existing quality assurance policy framework to better deliver the Global Fund’s Strategy; and
  - ii. the Secretariat proposes to establish a Board-approved Quality Assurance Policy for Vector Control Products and Related Equipment, which elevates and updates existing requirements that funding recipients must adhere to when purchasing such products.
2. Accordingly, the SC recommends the following decision point to the Board for approval at its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting in April 2024:

Based on the recommendation of the Strategy Committee, the Board:

  - i. approves the Quality Assurance Policy for Vector Control Products and Related Equipment as set forth in [Annex 1 to GF/B51/XX];
  - ii. requests the Secretariat to work with the World Health Organization (WHO) to establish an Expert Review Panel for Vector Control Products as described in the Policy, and to conclude the necessary arrangements with WHO; and
  - iii. approves the delegation of authority to the Secretariat, in consultation with the Strategy Committee Chair and Vice Chair, to make non-material adjustments to the Policy in line with [Annex 2 to GF/B51/XX] and to report back to the Strategy Committee and Board on all such changes.

Additionally, while the Board expects efforts will be made to fully implement the Policy upon its approval, the Board understands that for implementation of certain aspects of the Policy a reasonable transition period may be needed. The Board authorizes the Secretariat to allow for such a transition period when needed.

Budgetary implications (included in, or additional to, OPEX budget)

There are no budgetary implications.

The Expert Review Panel (“ERP”) is funded through the NextGen Market Shaping Strategic Initiative. The Global Fund will work closely with WHO to prioritize products for assessment using the ERP.