

## **PREPARATIONS FOR A PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

**Outline:** This paper briefly outlines the parameters to be considered in developing a proposal for the Partnership Forum, as well as outlining some of the initial discussions related to the planning of the event.

### **Summary of Decision Points:**

- 1. Mandates the Committee to work with the Secretariat to develop a comprehensive proposal for the Partnership Forum for the June Board meeting;**
- 2. Decides to hold the Forum during the first half of 2004;**
- 3. Recommends to the Committee to link the Forum with another meeting, preferably a Board meeting, to minimise costs;**
- 4. Requests the Secretariat to research similar events and establish lessons learned (for example, the GAVI experience);**
- 5. Requests the Secretariat to provide a list of events for 2004 for consideration at the June Board meeting.**

## **Part 1: Background**

1. The Partnership Forum is an integral aspect of the governance of the Global Fund as provided for in the By-Laws:

### **“Article 7**

#### **Composition of the Partnership Forum**

The Partnership Forum is an informal grouping of persons and entities concerned in the prevention, care, treatment and eventual eradication of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, meeting periodically to express their views on the Foundation's policies and strategies.

Participation in the Forum will be open to a wide range of stakeholders that actively support the Foundation's objectives. Members of the Partnership Forum will include representatives of donors, multilateral development cooperation agencies, developed and developing countries, civil society, NGO and community based organizations, technical and research agencies, and the private sector. The Foundation Board will establish criteria for participation and rules of procedure.

### **Article 8**

#### **Functions of the Partnership Forum**

The Partnership Forum will:

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

### **Article 9**

#### **Operations of the Partnership Forum**

The Forum will meet at least once every two years.

A meeting of the Partnership Forum shall be convened by written notification from or on behalf of the Foundation Board.

The Foundation Board shall establish the rules of procedure governing the meetings of the Partnership Forum”

## **Part 2: Parameters for Consideration**

2. The Committee discussed the possibilities for a Partnership Forum guided by some basic questions, and arrived at several initial recommendations.

3. When should the meeting take place?

- i. Given the time taken to arrange the Forum and the necessity to prepare adequately, as well as the need to give the Secretariat some time to prove the viability of the approach, it was suggested that the meeting should not take place before the first half of 2004. thereafter the Forum should be held every two years.
- ii. There was general agreement that the meeting should be linked to another meeting although there was no consensus on what type of meeting this should be: a Board meeting, an International Disease Conference or a UN meeting. For reasons of practicality and minimization of expense there is a proposal to the Board to hold the Forum contiguously with the Board meeting scheduled to be held in a recipient country in the first half of 2004.

4. Who should attend?

- i. The By-Laws specify that a wide range of stakeholders should attend. The Committee did not discuss the details of this aspect except to suggest that the Global Fund itself should only fund the attendance of the funded Board Members and the Secretariat. The possibility of organizing a special fund-raising drive for this event was mooted.
- ii. There was general agreement that careful consideration will need to be given to the intended size of the meeting.

5. What format should it assume?

- i. Initial discussion was entertained on two options:
  - Traditional: opening plenary, two days of parallel sessions on theme based discussions (e.g. grant process, fundraising, partnering), closing plenary;

- Innovative: simultaneous regional events linked by technology, special webcasts, video conferences;

- ii. It was recommended that more research should be done before any particular recommendation could be made.

6. What outcome or result can be expected?

- i. There was recognition by the Committee that more research and discussion is required before it could recommend whether the Forum should have a specific end product, for example a formal declaration, resolution or press statement.

7. In view of the fact that more work needed to be done, the Committee recommended that the Board mandate the Committee to work with the Secretariat to develop more elaborate rules of procedure for the Partnership Forum. The Committee requested the Secretariat to review the experience of other similar events (for example, from GAVI) and to investigate what global meetings are planned for 2004.