

Presentation by Dr. Helene Gayle to the Seventh Board Meeting of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria regarding the Partnership Forum

Background on the Partnership Forum

- As many of you know, the Partnership Forum is identified in the Global Fund bylaws as one of its four governing, administrative, and advisory bodies – alongside the Board, Secretariat, and Technical Review Panel.
- It provides a channel for feedback from stakeholders who are not formally represented elsewhere in the governance structure of the Foundation.
- To involve the broadest cross section of stakeholders, the Partnership Forum process will comprise both online discussions and formal meetings, including a July 7-8 event in Bangkok in advance of the International AIDS Conference.
- Online discussions and meetings will provide multiple opportunities for stakeholders to communicate ideas and suggestions about how to improve the Global Fund.

Description of online discussion:

- Central to the Partnership Forum is an online discussion forum, entitled *PartnersGF*, moderated and managed by Health and Development Networks (HDN).
- HDN is a non-profit organization with substantial experience in managing and moderating electronic discussion forums and providing communication support to conferences. Many of you who were involved in the formation of the Global Fund will

remember their work in hosting the “Break the Silence” discussion group.

- Beginning in March, *PartnersGF* participants will discuss a number of themes, which have been brought to the Secretariat and Board as issues of concern to many stakeholders.
 - The first theme focuses on CCMs, and additional themes include the Global Fund’s impact, the Global Fund as a financing mechanism, and partnerships with the Global Fund.
 - Parallel online discussions in French, Spanish, and Russian are planned – with launch dates in mid April. Syntheses of discussions from each language forum and regional meetings will be translated and posted on the other fora.
- Preliminary recommendations from the online fora will guide the agenda at the Bangkok event. We are also hopeful that at least some of the input can be provided to the Governance and Partnerships Committee as it considers possible recommendations on CCMs at our next meeting in June.

Regional Meetings:

- Regional meetings will take place before the July 7-8 event in Bangkok.
- The current schedule is:
 - Eastern Mediterranean Regional Meeting, Amman, Jordan, March 29-31
 - Asia Regional Meeting, Siem Reap, Cambodia, April 20-23
 - Southern Africa Regional Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya, May 5-6
 - West Africa Regional Meeting, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, June 7-9

- Eastern Europe Regional Meeting, Sofia, Bulgaria, June 7-11
- The Partnership Forum is featured prominently on the agenda of each regional meeting.
 - Participants will be encouraged to take part in PartnersGF and/or one of the language fora.
 - In many of the regional meetings, participants will be able to debate themes introduced in the online fora.

Bangkok Event:

- On the 7th and 8th of July, we'll be holding our bi-annual Partnership Forum meeting in Bangkok.
 - We're planning on having about 600 participants representing a cross section of stakeholders
 - Our plan is to try to apportion the participants in proportion to the impact of the three diseases, and to focus on country- and local-level stakeholders
 - Participant selection criteria are being refined by the Steering Committee and the Secretariat.
 - Every effort is being taken to ensure the fullest participation of people living with HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; youth; and women.
 - In addition, we will endeavor to include those representing groups/organizations that have not been part of the Global Fund – groups that haven't applied for funding and those whose applications have been declined.

- Hopefully, we will get a healthy mix of concerns and concrete recommendations that will build on those generated during the online discussions and the regional meetings.

Bangkok Event Agenda:

- Since the online discussions and regional meetings are driving the Bangkok event agenda, we don't anticipate finalizing an agenda until late May or early June.
- What we envision is a flexible format that allows full participation in the refinement of recommendations.
- I'm hoping that we can consider some kind of closing plenary that allows for reporting back by various constituencies on the outcomes of the meeting, much as there are reports on the various "tracks" in the closing plenaries of the international AIDS conferences.
 - This would give focus to summarizing the meetings outcomes, and could form the basis for the reports that are brought back to the Board.
 - The Steering Committee needs to work on this, but we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Communications Plan:

- The Secretariat's Communications Unit is developing a communication strategy for the entire Partnership Forum process, as well as the Bangkok event.
- As the online discussions progress, the central messages we would like to publicize will become clearer; the communications strategy will focus on the best means for disseminating those messages.

- Options include a post-event press conference (perhaps the on Sunday, July 11 – the opening day of the International AIDS Conference), a Web cast of the final session (during which final recommendations are presented), and video interviews with key participants.

Conclusion:

- Hopefully, this has given you all some sense as to our progress on the Partnership Forum.
- I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Secretariat, especially Christoph Benn, Kate Thomson, Dorcas Mapondera, and Al Nimocks (who is on loan to us courtesy of Family Health International).