

Electronic Report to the Board

Location of the 35th Board Meeting

GF/B34/ER08
Board Decision

PURPOSE: This report proposes Board approval of Côte d'Ivoire as the location for the 35th Board Meeting (26-27 April 2016). This document proposes one decision point as follows:

1. GF/B34/EDP10: Location of the 35th Board Meeting

I. Decision Point

1. Based on the rationale described below, the Secretariat recommends the following electronic decision point to the Board for approval:

Decision Point: GF/B34/EDP10: Location of the 35th Board Meeting

1. The Board:

- a. **Welcomes the invitation of the government of Côte d'Ivoire to host the Global Fund's 35th Board Meeting on 26-27 April 2016; and**
- b. **Acknowledges the recommendation of the Secretariat set forth in GF/B34/ER08.**

2. **Accordingly, the Board agrees to convene the 35th Board Meeting in Côte d'Ivoire.**

The budgetary implications of this decision are included in the approved 2016 Operating Expenses budget.

II. Relevant Past Decisions

1. Pursuant to the Governance Plan for Impact as approved at the Thirty-Second Board Meeting,¹ the following summary of relevant past decision points is submitted to contextualize the decision point proposed in Section I above.

Relevant past Decision Point	Summary and Impact
GF/B16/DP24: Board Action on the Right to Travel of People living with HIV (November 2007) ²	This decision, reflected in Section 6.1 of the Board and Committee Operating Procedures, determined that the Global Fund will not hold Board or Committee Meetings in countries that restrict short-term entry of people living with HIV/AIDS and/or require prospective HIV-positive visitors to declare their HIV status on visa application forms or other documentation required for entry into the country.
GF/B19/DP07: Global Fund Strategy in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities (May 2009) ³	SOGI Strategy Action 19 noted that the Global Fund will commit to meeting with government and civil society representatives before it holds Board meetings in any country where sex between consenting adults of the same gender is criminalized. ⁴ The Global Fund will use the occasion of a Board meeting to bring exposure and urgency to this issue through high-level meetings and

¹ GF/B32/DP05: Approval of the Governance Plan for Impact as set forth in document GF/B32/08 Revision 2.

² <http://www.theglobalfund.org/Knowledge/Decisions/GF/B16/DP24/>

³ <http://www.theglobalfund.org/Knowledge/Decisions/GF/B19/DP07/>

⁴ As per the ILGA State-Sponsored Homophobia Reports. The latest edition of this report is available here: http://old.ilga.org/Statehomophobia/ILGA_State_Sponsored_Homophobia_2015.pdf

Relevant past Decision Point	Summary and Impact
	public relations events, conducted within the scope and mandate of the work of the Global Fund.

III. Recommendation

2. The Board Leadership and the Secretariat welcome the invitation from the government of Côte d’Ivoire to host the 35th Board Meeting on 26-27 April 2016.

3. The Secretariat recommends that the Board agree to convene the 35th Board Meeting in Côte d’Ivoire. This recommendation follows analysis undertaken based on the following provisions and requirements:

- a. The Global Fund Board and Committee Operating Procedures (the “Operating Procedures”);
- b. The Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities (“SOGI”) Strategy;⁵
- c. Additional considerations regarding the legal and political context, key populations and broad stakeholder engagement; and
- d. Security assessment.

4. Overall, analysis confirmed that:

- a. Côte d’Ivoire does not have any entry, stay or residence restrictions based on HIV status;
- b. With respect to the provisions of the SOGI Strategy, sex between adults of the same gender is not criminalized, and the legal and political environment is considered moderate, with limited concerns regarding barriers to broad and open stakeholder engagement in the Board Meeting; and
- c. Holding the 35th Board Meeting in the West and Central Africa region is considered appropriate rotation between Global Fund regions and would be the first Board Meeting to be held in francophone Sub-Saharan Africa.

5. As per usual procedure for a high-level meeting of this nature, the Secretariat sought advice regarding security considerations with respect to hosting the 35th Board Meeting in Côte d’Ivoire. The Secretariat has been advised that the venue for the meeting is of an appropriate standard of security. The Secretariat’s Security Team will carry out a full security assessment and ensure that appropriate security measures are in place before the meeting, in liaison with relevant government authorities and other parties as applicable. The situation will be continuously monitored in the lead-up to the Board Meeting.

⁵: <http://www.theglobalfund.org/Knowledge/Decisions/GF/B19/DP07/>

IV. Next Steps

6. With Board approval of the proposed decision point, the Secretariat will proceed with formal preparations for the 35th Global Fund Board Meeting.
7. During preparations for the 35th Board Meeting, the Secretariat will consider opportunities for relevant side events or meetings.
8. The Secretariat's Security Team will deploy at an early stage during the meeting preparations to carry out a full security assessment and ensure that appropriate security measures are in place before the meeting, in liaison with relevant government authorities, partner organizations and other parties as applicable.