



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD
110th Session
Provisional agenda item 4

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The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and other collaboration

Note by the Secretariat

1. This note provides an update on developments relating to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the weeks before and during the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly.
2. Over 300 proposals were received by the Interim Secretariat by the deadline of 10 March. Of these 145 (divided into 204 components) met the basic criteria set by the Secretariat and were forwarded to the Technical Review Panel.
3. At its second meeting (New York, 22-24 April), the Board of the Global Fund approved 40 proposals from 31 countries, amounting to a commitment of US\$ 378 million over two years. Another 18 proposals from 12 countries, plus three multicountry proposals, amounting to a commitment of a further US\$ 238 million, are to be subject to a fast-track approval process conditional on certain changes and improvements specified by the Review Panel. Of the proposals approved, combating HIV/AIDS accounts for over 60% of the funding. Around half the proposals approved are from Africa.
4. A third group of proposals requiring more extensive changes will be reviewed again by the Review Panel before the Board meets in November 2002. The Secretariat is currently finalizing a communication to all applicants which will set out procedures to be followed and include comments from the Panel on individual applications. It is expected that the letters will be sent to the nominated focal points in the week beginning 22 May 2002.
5. The Board appointed Dr Richard Feachem, currently founding director of the Institute for Global Health, San Francisco, United States of America and formerly Editor-in-Chief of the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, as Executive Director of the Fund's secretariat. He is expected to take up his position in July 2002.
6. Dr Anders Nordstrom will remain as Interim Executive Director until Dr Feachem takes up his position. The Fund will continue to operate from the International Conference Centre, Geneva, until its permanent offices in Geneva are ready in mid-July.

PARTICIPATION

7. The United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, as patron of the Fund, addressed the Board on “The global commitment to fight AIDS, TB and malaria”. He was joined by a number of eminent figures and Board members to discuss the challenges ahead: operating as a genuine public-private partnership, being innovative, adding value and working with existing institutions, mobilizing significant additional resources, and acting urgently in response to need.

8. Nigeria took up its seat on the Board for the first time as the member for West and Central Africa.

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS

9. The Board adopted the Phase 1 Trustee Agreement under which the World Bank will become the Global Trustee of the Fund. The Board also approved the signing of the Administrative Services Agreement between the Fund and WHO.

DEBATE ON THE FUND AT THE FIFTY-FIFTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

10. The Fund was the subject of extensive discussion at the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly, both in formal sessions and in regional and other gatherings. Member States widely expressed the view that WHO should play a stronger role in the work of the Fund, specifically in the technical review process.

11. It was evident from the discussions that all stakeholders present were committed to making the Fund a success. Many of the concerns raised illustrate the difficulty of establishing a funding mechanism, for instance, that of assuring that funds are genuinely additional and are used in ways that are complementary to those from other sources. There is a need for greater clarity about the roles and responsibilities of the country coordinating mechanisms and, most urgently, the means by which funds can be transferred to successful applicants. Work is under way in this regard.

12. In the coming weeks, working groups will revise forms and guidelines, review the technical review process, make recommendations on procurement policy and practice, and re-examine governance procedures. WHO is involved in all these groups.

13. WHO is committed, as part of its strengthening of country work, to provide support to those countries revising proposals in the next few weeks, and those which are preparing proposals for the next round.

14. In this regard, WHO will seek a more structured interaction with the Review Panel in the next round to ensure that, although the Panel maintains its full independence, members have an opportunity to test their conclusions against those with experience of the relevant programme on the ground.

15. Provisional dates for the next Board meetings are 17 to 18 September, with a focus on policy issues, and 13 to 14 November, to consider the next round of proposals.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

16. The Executive Board is invited to note the information contained in this document.

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