

**Second Annual Retreat of the
Implementer Bloc
of the Global Fund Board**

Retreat Communique

**Geneva, Switzerland
11-12 October 2014**

**Second Annual Retreat of the
Implementer Bloc of the Global Fund Board
Meeting Communique**

The second Retreat of the Implementer Bloc (IB) of the Global Fund Board held in Geneva, Switzerland on 11-12 October 2014 issued the following communique:

The Implementer Bloc reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening Implementers' participation, engagement and accountability in Global Fund Board, the Bloc and their constituencies and noted the significant progress made at the bloc and constituency level towards achieving its objectives. These objectives are articulated in the Implementer Bloc Work Plan for the period 2014-2016. In reviewing the progress over the past year, the retreat is pleased to note:

- Strengthened communications through recruitment of a communication focal point, in-person and virtual meetings, establishment of a technical support office, creation of working groups, and increased communication among members;
- Strengthened internal governance through the development of vision and mission and representation, strategy development, expansion of delegation, and definition of clear consultation and participation process;
- Collaboration with regional and country networks in New Funding Model (NFM) roll out, sharing of information for concept note writing and monitoring key performance Indicators and communities' involvement;
- Secured funding to strengthen constituency work;
- Conducted capacity building on NFM and risk management;
- Supported Global Fund replenishment through the establishment of a regional network;
- Increased participation in Global Fund structures: working groups/committees;
- Conducted a gap analysis on constituency membership capacity; and
- Increased collaboration between constituencies through risk management forums.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the commitment of the constituencies, the support of the Global Fund Board Leadership and Global Fund Secretariat.

While there has been progress in several areas there are challenges including communication within and among constituencies and Implementer Bloc representatives on committees of the Global Fund Board.

While there have been efforts to improve communication between the Global Fund Secretariat and Board committees with Board Members, documents relating to the Audit and Ethics Committee are not made available in accordance with **Section 45.5 of the Operating Procedures of the Board and Committees**. In some instances documents are not made

available to committee members in sufficient advance time to enable them to consult with their constituencies.

Ensuring the effective and efficient implementation of the New Funding Model (NFM) is a priority of the Implementer Bloc. Feedback and early signs from applications already underway have highlighted barriers to efficient and effective implementation of core elements of the NFM which require the attention of the Global Fund Board and the Global Fund Secretariat. The Retreat noted that the Privileges and Immunities Agreement has only been signed by eight countries.

The retreat also discussed the Board Leadership's recommendation to utilise the electronic vote for expediting the selection and appointment of the future Inspector General.

The retreat discussed the draft report of the Working Group on Governance and focused its discussion on the five key recommendations: adjusting the committee structure; adjusting the voting structure; extending the term of the Board leadership and members from two to three years; risk management and the Partnership Forum.

The Implementer Bloc resolved to address the following priorities:

1. Strengthen internal and external communication of the Implementer Bloc (IB)

The IB ***accepted*** the recommendation to develop terms of reference for a Communication Working Group which will have responsibility for the development of a communication plan and provision of oversight for its implementation.

2. Dissemination of documents of the Board Committees

The IB ***endorsed*** the recommendation that the Implementer Bloc should support Point Seven's call urging the Global Fund Secretariat's compliance with **Section 45.5** of the **Operating Procedures of the Board and Committees** by making documents available on the Extranet, with the exception of documents that the Audit and Ethics Committee leadership deems to be of a confidential nature.

The IB ***agreed*** that the Implementer Bloc should urge the Global Fund Secretariat to comply with **Section 6: Standing Committees** of the **Governance Handbook**, to make documents available to constituencies in advance of the meetings. The retreat ***recommended*** that documents should be disseminated no less than 14 working days to enable committee members to consult with their constituencies.

The IB ***agreed*** that the Implementer Bloc should recommend to the Global Fund Secretariat that the new Office of Board Affairs prepares for ease of access a consolidated document showing the agenda and work plan of each committee.

3. Implementation of the New Funding Model

The IB ***endorsed*** the recommendation for the Strategy, Impact and Investment Committee (SIIC) to continue to engage with constituencies by repeating the survey to solicit their feedback on the operation of the New Funding Model (NFM).

The IB **supported** the recommendation from the Developed Country NGO Delegation to urge the Global Fund Secretariat and others to urgently consider and address the barriers that hinder the efficient and effective implementation of core elements of the NFM.

4. Privileges and Immunities Agreement

The IB **endorsed** the recommendation to call governments' attention to, and urge them to sign the Privileges and Immunities Agreement.

5. Human Rights

The IB **endorsed** the recommendation that the IB request the Global Fund Secretariat to include government constituencies in both the Human Rights Group and Community, Rights and Gender (CRG) Advisory Group, and that the IB should request clarification on their functions.

6. Electronic Vote for Selection of new Inspector General

The IB **endorsed** the Board Leadership's recommendation to proceed by electronic vote, subject to the submission of at least two candidates, in order to expedite the selection and appointment of the new Inspector General.

7. Global Fund Governance Review

The IB **agreed** to consult with constituencies on the recommendation of the Governance Working Group.

Based on the Governance Working Group's consultation with the IB the following positions were taken:

- There was majority support for a Governance Committee to undertake core Board governance functions not currently being performed during the transition to an updated committee structure;
- IB agreed by consensus not to change the voting structure of the Board;
- IB supported the recommendation on risk management.
- The IB agreed to consult with constituencies on the recommendation to extend Board Leadership's term from 2 to 3 years.
- The IB agreed to consult with constituencies on the recommendation to extend Board Members' term from 2 to 3 years.
- The IB agreed with the recommendation on the Partnership Forum.

8. Evaluation of Implementer Bloc Leadership

The IB ***expressed confidence*** in the leadership of the IB, highlighted their strengths and identified areas for development.

The IB ***endorsed*** the *ad hoc* Evaluation Group's recommendation to conduct an annual evaluation of the IB leadership and present the findings at the last Board meeting of each year

The IB ***agreed*** to review the terms of reference for the evaluation by the 33rd Meeting of the Global Fund Board.

9. Health systems strengthening – Ebola

The IB ***received with interest and concern*** a presentation from the delegate from Western and Central Africa on his country's response to Ebola.

The IB ***urged*** members to use available channels and mechanisms to encourage their respective country's preparedness including capacity to diagnose and pre-position isolation centres while continuing the provision of services for persons affected by the three diseases (HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria).

10. Process for the selection of a Board Vice Chair to serve for period 2015-2017

The IB ***agreed*** to review terms of reference of the previous Working Group and its process for selection.

IB ***agreed*** to extend an invitation early for nominations for membership of the Working Group from among Bloc.