

Welcome from the Board Leadership

Dear Board Colleagues,

It was great to see you all in Skopje. We would like to sincerely thank the host Government for their support and hospitality. There were many memorable moments, and, together, we made some critical decisions for the course of the Global Fund. We continue to capture lessons from each meeting to further improve. We will certainly note the need for additional diligence regarding visa and travel requirements with future host countries, the use of the countdown clock for remarks, and continue to improve on the volume and timeliness of Board documents. The Final Report from the Board Meeting will be forthcoming shortly. Again, we would like to thank those who are leaving for their service on the Board, as Committee Leadership or as Members, for their dedication and huge commitment of time and effort. We likewise welcomed new Members, who will bring unique skills and experiences to further enrich our discussions. It is not our usual practice to single anyone out in this letter, but in this case, we must mention Ambassador Stephanie Seydoux's very welcome announcement of the hosting of the 6th Replenishment by the Government of France, merci beaucoup. Such an early signal is really helpful for our collective efforts.

As you know, in Skopje we completed the establishment of new Board committees. We are working with the new Committee leaders to ensure we are engaging at the appropriate strategic levels. The agendas for the upcoming committee meetings are already quite full as the Strategy Committee begins actions related to allocations, Audit and Finance begins working on the replenishment, and Ethics and Governance explores committee selection processes, among many other important issues in front of each committee. We will also be welcoming a new non-voting representative from the Additional Public Donors to the Strategy Committee and the process to select a candidate is getting started. Please note that the new, non-voting seat on the Strategy Committee is not reserved for the Additional Public Donors (APD), but will be filled by them for this round. Thereafter, all five non-voting seats (three on the SC, and two on the AFC) will be open to the five consistencies – APD, WHO, UNAIDS, Partners, the World Bank (reserved seat on the AFC).

With the committee change-over, we have asked the committees to tighten the agendas for the in-person meetings to two days beginning in October, as was the past practice. We will also hold the meetings back-to-back. These changes are expected to make the best use of scarce time and money and also enable closer coordination across the committees. We ask that each constituency work to support the tighter, more strategically focused, agendas for our committees. The venue for the next Board Meeting in November is still to be confirmed but we will let you know soon. The new building is up and running, with the first official use of the conference facilities having been the Vatican, which rented it for press events related to the visit of the Pontiff to Geneva on 21 June. Best regards, Aida and John

The latest from the Coordinating Group Virtual Room...

The new Coordinating Group (CG) convened its first virtual meeting on 20 June and focused on a variety of key topics in preparations for the upcoming Committee meetings in June/July 2018, and following the 39th Board Meeting in Skopje.

The CG had the opportunity to speak with the Executive Director, Peter Sands, who shared his reflections on the work of the three Committees for the two years ahead, complemented by the discussion on the length of committee meetings, structure and priorities. The CG members reviewed and discussed the indicative agendas of the upcoming Committee meetings and provided its input on objectives of the various sessions and anticipated outcome. CG identified and agreed on lessons learned following the 39th Board Meeting and welcomed effective process of agenda development, and restricted volume of documents and presentations.

The CG agreed to continue discussions on management of cross-cutting matters and how to best align and strengthen collaboration between the committees.

Upcoming

Committee Meetings

8th AFC - 3-4 Oct 2018

8th SC - 1-2 Oct 2018

8th EGC - 4-5 Oct 2018

Board Meetings 2019-20

41st BM - 14-16 May 2019

42nd BM - 13-15 Nov 2019

43rd BM - 13-15 May 2020

44th BM - 17-19 Nov 2020

Audit and Finance Committee, AFC

- The first AFC meeting of the current term will take place at the Health Campus in Geneva from 17-19 July. The AFC leadership had the opportunity to discuss with the executive management team at the secretariat the committee's work plan for the next two years, including the role of the committee in line with its mandate and key milestones ahead of the 6th replenishment of the Global Fund.
- The meeting agenda for the meeting in July will include a tailored on boarding program for new committee members with focus on the core areas of the AFC mandate. With the support of the office of board affairs committee members will also discuss preferred ways of working. Then the committee will receive updates on risk management, OIG operations and reports issued since the last AFC meeting with a special session on investigations, the external audit plan, human resources and resource mobilization strategy.
- In addition, during the session on financial oversight, the committee will be requested to free up funds for portfolio optimization.

Ethics and Governance Committee, EGC

- At the 39th Board Meeting, the Vice-Chairs of the Ethics and Governance Committee (EGC) presented key achievements of 2016-2018 term, and outlined key priorities for the incoming Committee. During the Board Meeting, the new EGC members were appointment and subsequently commenced their term on 11 May 2018.
- The first EGC Meeting will take place on 26-28 June 2018 in Geneva and it will be the first Committee Meeting to be held at the Global Health Campus. The agenda of the meeting anticipates a range of discussions on Board culture, strengthening Committee selection processes, updates on privileges and immunities, and review of the core governance documents in view of proposed changes. On the latter, this is particularly important for the upcoming Board Leadership Selection Process and alignment on the Nomination Committee TORs.
- The Committee will need to appoint the representatives to delegate responsibility for evaluation of Ethics Officer. Information updates to the Committee includes EGC work plan, work of the Sanctions Panel, Ethics Officer progress update and discussion on sexual harassment and abuse.

Strategy Committee, SC

- The 7th Strategy Committee meeting with new members on board will be held on 11-12 July 2018 at the Global Health Campus. Under the leadership of Kieran Daly and Abdalla Osman, the meeting will be preceded by a series of induction session on 10 July to provide the Committee with the context on the strategic global overview of the three diseases and resilient and sustainable systems for health (RSSH), emerging trends in response to these, and implications on the current Global Fund portfolio.
- The meeting sessions will be focused on a range of relevant topics in preparations for future decisions on next three-year allocation period. These include review of lessons learned from the allocation 2017-2019, deep dive on key populations, discussion on appropriateness of setting a risk appetite for Human Rights and Gender Inequality, Transition, and Drug and Insecticide Resistance risks, and presentation of draft indicators to measure implementation of the CCM Evolution. This is especially important for the work the Committee must undertake in preparation for the 2020-2022 allocation period.
- In addition, there will be the pre- and post-SC meeting calls scheduled with the Board to provide the opportunity for input ahead of the meeting and debrief on outcomes in preparations for future Committee's discussions.