

Electronic Report to the Board

Appointment of the Chair of the Strategy Committee

GF/B45/ER14

Board Decision

Purpose of the paper: This report is submitted by the Board Chair and Board Vice-Chair to the Board with the recommended candidate to serve as the replacement Chair of the Strategy Committee for the remainder of the 2020-2022 committee term, ending in May 2022.

Document Classification: Internal.

Document Circulation: Board Members, Alternate Board Members, Constituency Focal Points and Committee Members.

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Decision

Decision Point: GF/B45/EDP15: Appointment of Replacement Chair of the Strategy Committee

The Board approves the appointment of Carolyn Gomes as Chair of the Strategy Committee for a term that will expire in May 2022, or until the appointment of her successor.

Budgetary implications (included in, or additional to, OPEX budget)

A summary of relevant past decisions providing context to the proposed Decision Point can be found in Annex 2.

Executive Summary

Context

Following the resignation of the Chair of the Strategy Committee (SC), Board Leadership on 12 July 2021 launched an urgent call for nominations for a replacement Chair for the remainder of the 2020-2022 committee term, ending in May 2022.

Questions this paper addresses

- A. What was the selection process?
- B. What is the Board Leadership's recommendation?

Conclusions

- A. Constituencies from the Implementer Voting Group nominated candidates for the Chair of the SC position through internal nomination processes, based on experience and competencies required to fulfill the mandate of the Strategy Committee for the remainder of the 2020-2022 term, and conducted a first phase of due diligence. The Ethics and Governance Committee (EGC) conducted an initial review of candidates in consultation with the Executive Director. The Ethics Officer conducted a second phase of due diligence, and no concerns requiring additional due diligence were identified. The Ethics Officer is not aware of any integrity issues preventing the recommended candidate from serving as SC Chair. These findings were shared with the EGC and the Board Leadership. The EGC submitted a confidential report to the Board Leadership, without eliminating any candidate. The Board Leadership, taking into consideration the initial review report from the EGC and in consultation with the current Vice-Chair of the SC, conducted its review of candidates and invited the two candidates to be interviewed.
- B. The Board Leadership held interviews with the candidates, and identified the final proposed candidate presented in this report, to recommend as replacement Chair of the SC for a term that will expire in May 2022, or until the appointment of her successor.

| Name | Nominating Constituency | Leadership Role |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Carolyn Gomes | Developing Countries NGOs | Chair of the Strategy Committee |

Input Sought

The Board is requested to approve, as recommended by the Board Leadership, the decision point set out on page 2 of this report.

- Decision Point: GF/B45/EDP15: Appointment of Replacement Chair of the Strategy Committee

Confidentiality. Constituencies are reminded that at this stage, candidate information is not public, and must remain confidential until the appointment of the Chair of the SC is approved by the Board. Information relating to the recommended candidate must not be discussed outside of the constituencies. In case of any questions regarding the content of this report, constituencies are invited to contact the Legal and Governance Department and/or the Ethics Officer directly. In the interest of the continued respect of the personal reputation of the final candidate, questions should not be copied to the full Board.

Report

Board Chair and Vice-Chair Review and Recommendation

1. Strategy Committee is at a critical stage in its work plan for the 2020-2022 term, with an intensive period over the coming months that will involve consultations, consensus-building, and careful consideration of the draft Strategy Narrative, the M&E Framework, as well as the disease split and allocation methodology. And all of this is in addition to the core work of the committee.
2. Given the importance of the role, Board Leadership would like to thank Board constituencies for putting forward strong candidates for the Chair of the Strategy Committee. Board Leadership carefully considered a report from EGC, which referred to the due diligence conducted by the Ethics Officer and the input received from the Executive Director. Board Leadership also consulted with Gunilla Carlson, the Vice-Chair of SC, who agreed that the nominated candidates were excellent.
3. When reviewing the strong list of candidates, Board Leadership considered primarily the merit of individual candidates against the Committee competencies as identified by the application materials, SC specific expertise, the EGC's report on its initial review in consultation with the Executive Director, consultation with the current Vice-Chair of the SC and direct interviews with the candidates. In addition, experience with the Global Fund and Board and Committee processes in particular, the importance of continuity and current knowledge of the SC workstreams in the context of the Strategy development process and other key workstreams, including the Strategy Narrative, Disease Split, Eligibility Policy, Allocation Methodology, M&E Framework and KPI Framework.
4. Interviews were conducted with the candidates to assess suitability further and discuss the SC's priorities. Both candidates demonstrated a good understanding of what is required. On reflection, however, Board Leadership felt that Carolyn Gomes' experience on the SC, her ability to 'hit the ground running', and the continuity she would provide to ongoing processes provided a compelling basis for recommending her appointment to the position.
5. The Board Leadership recommends to the Board the appointment of the following individual to serve as a neutral, non-voting Chair of the SC for the remainder of the 2020-2022 committee term, ending in May 2022.

| Name | Nominating Constituency | Leadership Role |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Carolyn Gomes | Developing Countries NGOs | Chair of the Strategy Committee |

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Annexes

The following items can be found in Annex:

Annex 1: Candidate Biography

Annex 2: Relevant Past Board Decisions

Annex 1 – Candidate Biography

Special Advisor on External Relations, ProActividad

Alternate Board Member, The Developing Country NGO Delegation to the Global Fund Board

J Carolyn Gomes, Member of the Developing Country NGO Delegation to the Global Fund since 2017 and Alternate Board Member since May 2019, has a distinguished record as a Human Rights advocate. As Alternate Board Member and, since May 2020, a member of the Strategy Committee, Dr. Gomes helps to lead the Delegation work on issues brought to the Global Fund Board. Responsibilities include: managing the development of position papers; ensuring effective coordination and management of the Delegation's affairs; serving as spokesperson; working with other delegations to achieve common understandings and positions on important issues; and representing the delegation at conferences and events.

A medical doctor since 1980, Dr. Gomes worked in public and private medicine in Trinidad and Jamaica, served on the Executive of the Paediatric Association of Jamaica and was a Paediatrician in private practice until 2002 when she gave up practice to work full time on issues of human rights.

From 2002-2013 Dr. Gomes was Executive Director of Jamaicans For Justice (JFJ), a non-profit, Citizens' Rights Action Group which she helped found in 1999, and led to become a nationally, regionally and internationally recognized organization advocating against State abuse of rights and strengthening legislative and other provisions for the protection of rights. Her work on human rights was recognized by the United Nations in 2008 and she was conferred with the Order of Jamaica (the nation's 3rd highest honour) in 2009. Between 2014 and 2018 she worked as Executive Director of Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition, in which role she was the organization's chief executive and spokesperson, helping to determine and drive its strategic direction, vision and work in policy analysis, advocacy and resource mobilization to support the scale up of services to vulnerable communities and to build capacity among the regional network of civil society actors.

Dr. Gomes is married to Dr. Richard Gomes, and is a Mother and Grandmother. She presently serves as an independent consultant and special advisor to a number of Caribbean NGOs, including as Special Advisor on International Relations to ProActividad, a Dominican Republic NGO.

Annex 2 – Relevant Past Board Decisions

| Relevant past Decision Point | Summary and Impact |
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| GF/B42/EDP13: Appointment of the Chair of the Ethics and Governance Committee (April 2020)¹ | <p>On 11 May 2020, the Board approved the appointment of the Chair of the Ethics and Governance Committee for a term starting on 16 May 2020 for two years or until the appointment of her successor.</p> |
| GF/B42/EDP05: Appointment of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Standing Committees of the Board (March 2020)² | <p>On 12 March 2020, the Board approved the appointment of five neutral, non-voting Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs (excluding the EGC Chair) to the three new Standing Committees for a term starting on 16 May 2020 for two years or until the appointment of their successors.</p> |
| GF/B41/EDP15: Revisions to the Committee Leadership Selection Process, the Due Diligence Process and the EGC Size and Composition (November 2019)³ | <p>Enhancements aiming to strengthen the selection process include considerations related to complementarity between the candidates, facilitations and chairing skills, good understanding of the Board role, variety in constituency representation in leadership positions over time, gender diversity and succession planning and continuity. In addition, the due diligence process and roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders in the selection process were also further clarified.</p> |
| GF/B38/EDP10: Appointment of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Standing Committees of the Board (January 2018)⁴ | <p>On 23 January 2018, the Board approved the appointment of neutral, non-voting Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the three new Standing Committees established under the Enhanced Governance Structures (GF/B34/EDP07) for a term starting on 11 May 2018 for</p> |

¹ GF/B42/EDP13: <https://www.theglobalfund.org/board-decisions/b42-edp13/>

² GF/B42/EDP05: <https://www.theglobalfund.org/board-decisions/b42-edp05/>

³ GF/B41/EDP15: <https://www.theglobalfund.org/board-decisions/b41-edp15/>

⁴ GF/B38/EDP10: <https://www.theglobalfund.org/board-decisions/b38-edp10/>

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| | two years or until the appointment of their successors. |
| GF/B34/EDP07: Enhanced Governance Structure (January 2016)⁵ | <p>Board approved current Committee structure and composition, committee Charters including the EGC, and revised Operating Procedures for Board and Committee, including guidelines for Committee leadership and membership selection.</p> <p>The Board and Committee Operating Procedures were subsequently amended in GF/B34/EDP21⁶ (April 2016) but this had no impact on selection processes.</p> |

⁵ GF/B34/EDP07: <https://www.theglobalfund.org/board-decisions/b34-edp07>

⁶ GF/B34/EDP21: <https://www.theglobalfund.org/board-decisions/b34-edp21/>