

**Executive Committee Call
25 March 2020**

Attended:	Apologies:	Secretariat
Joanne Carter (Vice-Chair) & Selamawit Bekele Erika Arthun / Anjali Kaur Pierre Blais / Srikanth Kondreddy Tatiana Dantas / Mariana Darvenne Paula Fujiwara David Lewinsohn Austin Obiefuna / Aaron Oxley Tereza Kasaeva / Diana Weil Cheri Vincent / Amy Bloom	Timur Abdullaev	Lucica Ditiu Jenniffer Dietrich Joseph Chiu Eelco Szabo Catie Rosado Sahu Suvanand Brenda Waning Sulo Weerasinghe
Minutes of Discussion		Outcome(s)
1. Hosting Arrangement Updates		
<p>The Executive Committee received a brief update on the process and ongoing work about more specific assessment criteria, exploring how to increase security and predictability for any future arrangement, and follow-up analysis on questions raised on the last Executive Committee call.</p> <p>The focus of this update was on the planned timeline going forward to shortlist and then identify a preferred hosting option. Also discussed was how the rapidly changing, unpredictable situation around COVID-19 could impact the work ahead and existing timeframes. And should there risks to the timeline, the Executive Committee will be informed immediately.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat and consultants will be busy with several streams of work ongoing to move along the process, and help position the Executive Committee to make recommendations to the Board.
2. 33rd Board Meeting Update		
<p>The Head of Governance updated the Executive Committee about arrangements around the next Board Meeting in Abuja:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The venue for the meeting and related events is secured for 18 – 20 November 2020. The UN travel advisory, in terms of arrival and departure times for all Board participants. The visa process, which seems to be straight forward. However, the Secretariat will explore if a support letter from the ministry can be issued to facilitate the process. <p>The Executive Committee members asked if there will be a contingency plan in place, in case the corona pandemic shifts to African countries in the second part of the year. Indeed, the Secretariat is considering having the Board Meeting in virtual mode, in case that it will not be possible or advisable to travel to Abuja.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat is going to send the Board invitations containing logistical information next week. The Secretariat requested the Executive Committee to reflect about the feasibility and interest to offer site visits in Abuja.

3. Impact of COVID-19	
<p>The Executive Director explained the impact of COVID-19 on the Secretariat’s work. All staff are fine and working from home either in Geneva or their home countries, and meetings are held virtually. All workstreams continue as usual which shows the quality and strength of the teams.</p> <p>Partners came together suggesting doing previously planned World TB Day activities in 6 months from now. This enthusiasm was very heartwarming, and hence, during the Townhall calls it was announced to have activities postponed to September 2020.</p> <p>Depending on the length of the lockdown in India, there will or not be backlogs for TB drugs. The Secretariat is monitoring this situation very closely.</p> <p>Cepheid has given reassurance that the availability of TB cartridges will not be affected by their announcement of a rapid test for COVID-19.</p> <p>Moreover, the Global Fund will not postpone the deadlines for countries to submit their proposals. Hence, preparatory work and technical support will be provided virtually.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat is compiling a note on how to shift interventions into virtual mode. And noted that the OneImpact community app that TB affected communities use will get networked into the social tools.
4. Operational Strategy	
<p>The Head of Governance navigated the Executive Committee through the past Board decision about the new operational strategy, as well as the process to develop the last two strategies of the Secretariat.</p> <p>Although during its 31st Board Meeting, the Board requested the endorsement of a new operational strategy for the Secretariat at its 33rd Board Meeting, given the circumstances of change in terms of hosting arrangements, the Executive Committee discussed the possibility of postponing the development of the Secretariat’s operational strategy to 2021.</p> <p>The Executive Committee considered most reasonable the postponement of the new operational strategy until the commencement of the Secretariat’s operations under a new host, and according to the timeline presented by the Secretariat in the background document.</p> <p>The Executive Committee also decided to review the existing Operational Strategy 2016-2020 in order to extend it up to 2021.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Executive Committee postponed the development of the operational strategy until the Secretariat operates under a new host and will review the current Operational Strategy in order to extend it up to 2021.
5. AOB	
<p>The next call of the Executive Committee will be scheduled for end of April 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> calendar invite to be sent.