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<th>The Partners' Forum</th>
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**Rationale**

A Partners' Forum is mandated in the Partnership structure and procedures as the body to which all other elements of the Partnership are answerable. It was approved by the Board and WHO in the 2006-2007 work plan and money has already been identified in the Trust Fund (US$ 366K). The last Forum was held in 2004, so there will be a four year interval.

**Summary**

A Partners' Forum is proposed for 2008 with the following objectives:

1. To build political commitment to implementing the Global Plan to Stop TB.
2. To give constituencies a voice on implementing the Global Plan to Stop TB and to mobilize and engage partners.
3. To report on trends in implementing Global Plan to Stop TB.
4. To bring Ministers together for a summit to discuss progress on funding the Plan at national level.
5. To influence TB control policy in participating endemic countries through bilateral Coordinating Board meetings.
6. To report on the external evaluation of the Partnership and call for endorsement of its recommendations.
7. To provide a marketplace for connecting partners.

**Decisions requested (from the Stop TB Coordinating Board)**

- To approve the planning and realization of a Partner's Forum for 2008
- To appoint a CB steering committee to guide the process of planning with the Secretariat

**Implications**

Planning and implementing a Partners’ Forum will entail approximately 18 months of work by the Secretariat and key partners. Approved Secretariat budget within the Biennium Workplan is US$ 366,000.

**Next Steps**

**Action Required:** Formation of a CB steering committee

**Focal Point:** Sarah England

**Timeframe:** Immediate action