

## **The Way Forward**

### ***2<sup>nd</sup> Ad-hoc Committee on the TB Epidemic***

The Stop TB Partnership is at a crucial juncture. It is now five and one half years since the report of the *ad hoc* Committee on the Global Tuberculosis Epidemic in March 1998. This landmark report identified constraints to global tuberculosis control and presented recommendations that set the stage for much of the progress that has occurred since. Promptly, in response to the report, what was then called the Stop TB Initiative, now the Stop TB Partnership, was launched in November 1998.

Since its beginning the Partnership has evolved considerably, defining its role in global tuberculosis control as well as its structure, governance and financing. Considerable attention also has been paid to ensuring that the secretariat is appropriately configured to ensure efficient and effective operations and support for the Partnership. All of these activities have been extremely important in enabling the operations of the Partnership. In turn, the Partnership has been successful in addressing a number of the constraints identified in the *ad hoc* committee report. Now, however, it is time to turn attention to the next phase of the Partnership, making the transition from start-up to sustainable operations, shifting the focus to building regional and country partnerships, and addressing the current major constraints to tuberculosis control.

The transition into the Partnership's second phase will be guided by two important documents, the external evaluation of the Partnership and the report of the Second *ad hoc* Committee on the Global Tuberculosis Epidemic. Both of these documents are being presented to the October meeting of the Coordinating Board for discussion and recommendations.

Following these presentations and the Board's response, the reports and the issues they present will be the focus of several sessions at the Partners Forum in December. The sessions are designed to provide input on how the recommendations contained in the reports may be implemented. Following the Forum the Secretariat will synthesize the recommendations from the two documents and the implementation steps recommended by the Partners forum into a composite plan with action steps, time-lines, and specific assignments, that will operationalize the recommendations of these two reports. This composite plan, *The Way Forward*, will be presented to the Coordinating Board at its meeting in Spring 2004.