

## Executive Committee Call 25 April 2024

Attended:	Apologies:	Secretariat:
Austin Obiefuna (EC Chair), Timur Abdullaev Amy Bloom (for Cheri Vincent) Deliana Garcia / David Lewinsohn Nasir Ebrahimkhail (for Carrie Lehmeier) Subrat Mohanty Peter Owiti John Fawcett (for Obinna Onyekwena)	Teresa Kasaeva Carol Nyirenda Obinna Onyekwena Cheri Vincent	Lucica Ditiu Jenniffer Dietrich Catie Rosado Elizabeth Wamera Suvanand Sahu
<b>Minutes of the Call</b>		

### 1. Global Fund Board

1. The meeting started with Vice-Chair welcoming Executive Committee members and then passing the floor to the Executive Director to give an update on the most important developments at the recent Global Fund Board meeting. The Board meeting ended the day before the Executive Committee call, and was focused on two important topics, including the Global Disease Split (GDS), allocation and eligibility; replenishment; and SACA agenda – interaction with global health institutions as well as country level conversations.
2. The Global Disease Split, allocation and eligibility was discussed both during the retreat and in the Board meeting agenda. The Global Fund commissioned a review of the GDS to Ernst & Young; the review concluded that the GDS should be revised. However, following the results of the review, the Global Fund Secretariat commissioned an evaluation of the review, which highlighted limitations of the review by Ernst & Young. During the Board meeting, several Board Members spoke very strongly for the GDS to be revised in favor of TB, while others either kept silence or did not express a clear position. The Stop TB Partnership’s paper on alternative options for the GDS received some positive feedback. There was a proposal to add a scenario where Global Fund receives less funding than in the previous grant cycle; this will be reflected in the updated version of the paper. There were concerns on the sequence of decisions (approval of the GDS in November, followed by the approval of the Global Fund investment case in February, 2025, and then followed by the approval of the allocation, eligibility and qualitative adjustments), because it does not allow to revise the elements approved earlier, discussions are going about the sequence’s need for change. The Secretariat will work with the Global Fund and partners not only on the GDS, but also the distribution of TB funds among the countries.
3. On the replenishment, some donors support maintaining the focus on HIV, TB and malaria; other donors are trying to expand the focus to include broader issues, such as climate change and health systems. In any case, the replenishment will not be an easy exercise this time.
4. There were also discussions around malaria vaccine roll out and on who will lead the work, GAVI or the Global Fund, and how it will be operationalized. There have been conversations on the lessons learned from the vaccine roll-out to be applied to TB, but so far, the lessons learned are not good (confusion on vaccine; poor uptake; lack of clarity on how much should go for vaccine and how much should go to other programmatic interventions, etc.).

5. At the UN HLM on AMR, which will take place in September, the Stop TB Partnership is providing draft Key TB Asks for partners to use. The Partnership is planning a webinar on 7 May to announce the documents. The Partnership is also supporting the participation of a few constituency representatives and the Vice-Chair in the HLM multi-stakeholder hearing.
6. **Discussion points**
  - The importance of advocacy around the GDS revision was recognized, and it was suggested to focus on one of the scenarios and synergize with civil society delegations in other Boards, including the Global Fund Board
  - It was proposed to discuss advocacy strategies to encourage the US constituency on the Global Fund Board to speak in favor of increasing funding for TB. It was mentioned however that decision making involving the revision of the GDS would require clearance from different sectors of the US Government, which may suggest to focus advocacy on other donors as well.
  - It was mentioned that there should be more discussion on the progress related to the roll out of the malaria vaccine and the lessons learned and implications for TB.
7. **Action items:**
  - The Secretariat shared both evaluations of the GDS (by Ernst & Young and the review conducted by the Global Fund Secretariat)

## 2. Governance

8. The Vice-Chair introduced the second agenda item, which included three sub-items: the selection of the Chair of the Board, the terms of some Board Members coming to an end, the updates on the Countries Affected by TB and the EC composition.
9. On the first point, the Vice-Chair reminded that the Executive Committee agreed not to form a sub-group for the nomination of a new Chair of the Board, mainly because there is only one known candidate, the Secretary of Health of the Philippines. A letter has been sent to him to get formal confirmation about his availability and commitment to be the new Stop TB Partnership Board Chair. It is hoped that a reply will be received before the World Health Assembly and then it will be possible to setup a meeting with the Secretary while he is in Geneva. The point for discussion will be the possibility of already planning events with him in the near future.
10. **Action item:**
  - Once the Secretariat hears back from the Minister, the EC will be informed and the Secretariat will in that moment share a draft email with the EC's recommendation to the Board for endorsement for the new Chair.
11. The Executive Committee was informed about Board Members, whose terms will end:
  - Subrat Mohanty from the Developing Country NGO constituency (by the end of June 2024)
  - Carol Nawina and Peter Owiti representing the Community of People Affected by TB (by the end of June 2024)
  - Deliana Garcia representing the Developed Country NGO constituency (by the end of June 2024)
  - Anna Caravaggio from Private Sector Constituency (by the end of 2024)
  - David Lewinsohn representing the Innovation Constituency in an interim capacity (by the end of 2024)

12. The Executive Committee was reminded of the discussion in the previous call regarding Countries Affected by TB seats. In particular:
  - Brazil will be invited to the next Board meeting but there are considerations for rotation to another country from that region
  - Indonesia, Nigeria, South Africa will be extended in their terms as Board Members
  - Still pending are clear signals from Cameroun and a country from the EECA region. Secretariat will try to meet with Uganda and Tanzania to discuss potential interest to become a Board Member.
  - In a few months, an email on governance will be sent to the Board for endorsement.
13. **Action item:**
  - Once the Secretariat has the information on new Board Members, an update will be sent to the Board.
14. On the last point of the agenda item, the Executive Committee was updated on the Executive Committee seats that need to be replenished/renewed (two seats for TB-affected voices and two seats open to all other Board Members). The timeline agreed upon on the last Executive Committee call:
  - Open call for interest to join the Executive Committee by 1 May or earlier
  - Close the call at the end of May 2024
  - The Vice-Chair will review the nominations and present his recommendation to the Executive Committee in July 2024. If there is more interest than available seats, the Vice-Chair will collaborate with the interested Board Members to reach a joint recommendation about how best to allocate the seats in line with the principles and in the context of the rest of the recommended composition
  - The recommendation of the Executive Committee goes to the Board for approval.

### **3. 38th Stop TB Partnership Board Meeting**

15. The Executive Committee was informed that an organizing committee consisting of government and civil society representatives was formed and will start meeting regularly from May. The Ministry of Health is working to make sure invitation letters are issued early in advance, hopefully by early June. The Secretariat is also working on organizing sight visits, which will be open to Board Members and other attendees. The venue is being officially finalized, after which the Secretariat will start working on reservations. Executive Committee members were requested to explore what documents in addition to the invitation are needed to get the Nigerian visa.