

THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA
TECHNICAL REVIEW AND ADVICE
DECISIONS ADOPTED
TWG MEETING 14 December 2001

1. Application Process

- 1.1 The Global Fund will need a clear, simple and transparent application format and process.
- 1.2 The Secretariat will be responsible for facilitating the application process.
- 1.3 The Global Fund will need to identify a process for accommodating proposals in various languages. This will be critical to assure equitable access to the Fund.
- 1.4 The Secretariat will ensure that all the required information is included, before forwarding proposals to the independent Technical Review Panel.
- 1.5 A system for vetting the proposals will be explored, keeping in mind the need to simplify the process while not increasing transaction costs on countries, the Secretariat or the Technical Review Panel.
- 1.6 The Secretariat will forward the recommendations from the Technical Review Panel to the Board for final decision.
- 1.7 Technical support for preparing proposals and developing country level partnerships could be provided and funded by partners active in the country, such as bilateral donors and UN organizations. Mechanisms will need to be developed for supporting the development of proposals in countries without such partners active in the country. The possible role of the Fund in the provision of support for proposal preparation will be further explored.
- 1.8 To enable more rapid transfer of funds and initial implementation of programs, the Board may consider adopting special, transparent procedures to approve “quick start” proposals, particularly during the first year of Fund operation. “Quick start” proposals must adhere to Fund principles and must undergo technical review.
- 1.9 In addition, other mechanisms may be developed for “interim” proposals to allow for rapid release of one or two smaller funding tranches, with additional funds contingent upon performance. These proposals must adhere to Fund principles and must undergo technical review.

2. Technical Review Panel

- 2.1 The technical review process will be an independent transparent process based on rigorous scientific and programmatic reviews of proposals. Proposals will be subjected to a systematic process of case-by-case peer review of the technical and programmatic content.

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- 2.2 The Technical Review Panel is an independent, impartial team of experts appointed to guarantee the integrity and consistency of the proposal review process. It will review grant proposals submitted to the Fund for support, based on a set of proposal review criteria set by the Board, and will make recommendations to the Board for final decision. Members will not represent their home institutions or governments, but will serve in their personal, professional capacities.
- 2.3 Guidelines will be developed on potential conflict of interest and in areas of confidentiality.
- 2.4 There should be a single Technical Review Panel, which possesses a wide array of expertise and will consist of an appropriate number of scientific and programmatic experts to review all proposals. As needed, it will draw from a larger, geographically diverse pool of reviewers, from a broad range of organizations in both the developing and developed world, to advise on specific technical and programmatic issues, depending on the nature of the proposal under consideration.
- 2.5 The panel will include individuals with extensive program experience to provide peer reviews of proposals and bring their substantive expertise to the process. The panel will include members who possess country experience and expertise on the role of Civil Society in the field.
- 2.6 Because it will be difficult to find individual reviewers with expertise in all three disease areas, members will be selected to ensure a balance of expertise in HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria, as well as in non-health areas such as economics, finance, program management, community development, and implementation in resource poor settings. Reviewers must be able to evaluate proposals based on their overall sustainability and feasibility.
- 2.7 Panel members will not represent positions of Global Fund partners, nor be able to review proposals that represent a perceived conflict of interest.
- 2.8 While UN staff will not serve on the technical review panel, they can provide critical resources for organizing the review process and can assure independence. UN staff can perform a supportive role to the Review Panel.
- 2.9 Panel members will be nominated by and approved by the Board. The Secretariat may solicit the names of potential reviewers through a variety of sources, including governments, UN agencies, and Civil Society (NGOs, Private Sector). It would be useful for the Board to develop a stable pool of Technical Experts that can be called upon as needed.

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- 2.10 Panel members will serve for a two-year period, though it may be necessary to renew selected Experts. Staggered terms may be used so that not all members are up for reappointment at the same time.
- 2.11 The Fund will make available resources to cover the expenses that panel members incur in the proposal review process to ensure independence.
- 2.12 The Panel may need a full-time convener, who could be a member of the Secretariat.
- 2.13 The Board will determine how the technical panel will be convened and how reviews will take place.
- 2.14 The names of the members of the Technical Review panel will be made public.
- 2.15 Mechanisms will be developed for providing feedback to applicants regarding the quality of their proposal, including an indication of why proposals were unsuccessful. Such remanded proposals could be resubmitted for consideration after revision.

3. Technical Policy and Program Support

- 3.1. The Board will commission an appropriate body to address key technical and policy issues for Board consideration, such as: detailed criteria for reviewing proposals; options for monitoring and evaluation indicators; and possible floors/caps for funding. This function could be served through a standalone working group, ad hoc working groups, or assigned to the Technical Review Panel.

4. Additional Actions

- 4.1 A sub-working group should be established to further develop a process for technical review for submission to the first meeting of the Board. This group should focus on a number of critical areas including the use of multi-layered reviews and the establishment of timelines for the review process.