

40th Board Meeting

Report of the Coordinating Group

GF/B40/10

14-15 November 2018, Geneva

Board Information

Purpose of the paper: to provide the Board Members with an update on the work of the Coordinating Group, focusing on activities in the period between the 39th and 40th Board Meetings (May 2018 – November 2018).

Executive Summary

Context

This report, provided biannually, provides an update to the Board on the activities of the Global Fund Coordinating Group (“CG”). The CG, as identified in its [Terms of Reference](#),¹ is a mechanism for coordination between the Board and its Committees, to ensure effective collaboration across the Board Committees and linkages between different work streams, particularly with regard to cross-cutting issues.

1. A list of decisions adopted by the standing Committees between the 39th (May 2018) and 40th (Nov 2018) Board meetings is included in annex.

Questions this paper addresses

- A. What were the key areas of focus of the CG?
- B. What are the priorities for the future?

Conclusions

- A. The CG has focused on (1) increasing the effectiveness of the governing bodies; (2) committee alignment with Board priorities; and 3) collaboration between the three committees.
- B. Priorities for the three committees include: (1) Audit and Finance Committee: allocation of funds for next cycle; three year allocation to OPEX; Innovative Finance and Risk Management; (2) Ethics and Governance Committee: Governance Action Plan; Board Culture; Committee selection processes and Framework for private sector engagements and; (3) Strategy Committee: Allocation Methodology; Domestic Financing and TERG thematic reviews.

Input Sought

This report is for the Board’s information.

Input Received

This report was prepared using output from the CG meetings during the previous six months.

¹ [Terms of Reference of the Coordinating Group](#)

Report

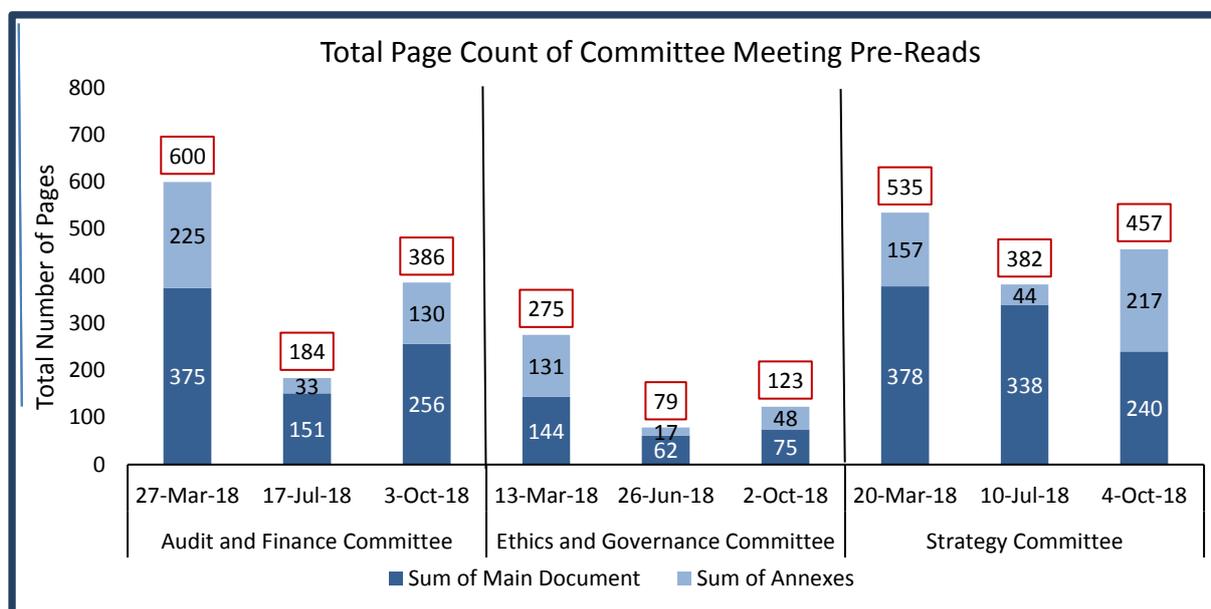
Introduction

2. The CG plays a key role in ensuring that the work of the committees supports the priorities identified by the Board in each of its six core functions: strategy development; partnership engagement, resource mobilization and advocacy; commitment of financial resources; risk management; assessment of organizational performance; ethics and governance oversight. The CG is a space for dialogue and exchange in pursuit of increasingly effective committee functioning, particularly through collaboration between the three committees.
3. Membership of the CG consists of the Board Chair and Vice Chair as well as the Chair and Vice-Chair of each of the standing committees. The composition of the CG changed following the 39th Board Meeting in May 2018. The current membership includes: Aida Kurtovic (Board Chair); John Simon (Board Vice-Chair); Beatrijs Stickers (Chair, AFC); Anthony Garnett (Vice-Chair, AFC); Sandra Thurman (Chair, EGC); Grace Rwakarema (Vice-Chair, EGC); Kieran Daly (Chair, SC); and Abdalla Osman (Vice-Chair, SC). The Head of the Office of Board Affairs, Carole Presern, serves as the Secretary of the CG.
4. The CG convened four times in the period from the close of the 39th Board Meeting to mid-November 2018, for three virtual meetings and one in-person meeting. The main areas of focus have been (1) increasing the effectiveness of the governing bodies; (2) committee alignment with Board priorities; and 3) collaboration between the three committees. The CG received updates around Global Fund's actions in relation to Venezuela as well as initiatives around Domestic Financing for Health.

Focus Area 1: Increasing the effectiveness of the governing bodies

5. The CG has increased its focus on strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of the Board and committees to ensure time is spent on key issues being raised to the Board for informed decision-making and discussion.
 - i. **Reflections and lessons learned:** Debriefs were held in the CG following the May Board and each round of committee meetings. CG members shared observations and feedback from the meetings and discussed ways to continue to improve governance practices. Results from the committee self-assessments helped inform these discussions. At the October in-person meeting, the CG agreed to expand the self-assessment process to include seeking feedback from the Secretariat.
 - ii. **Incorporating input from non-represented constituencies:** Ensuring that the views of non-represented constituencies are considered in committee discussions has long presented a challenge. For recent meetings, constituencies were asked to send in their input on agenda items in advance of the meeting. The committee chairs and vice-chairs have made stronger efforts to ensure that these inputs are aired, but requested that constituencies help by sending statements well in advance. Some are received just ahead of the agenda item being discussed.
 - iii. **Effective Board and Committee documentation:** the new reporting approach rolled out to the Board in November 2017 has now been extended to the committees. On the manageability of the volume of Board and committee documents, the CG has been committed

to reducing the size of documents. During this period, a decrease in the number of pages sent to committees is noted. Just to note, there is expected to be an increase in document pages for committee meetings that occur prior to Board meetings in order to support decision-making compared to those meetings that do not directly precede a Board meeting.



iv. **Effective information-sharing and consultation:** The CG remains committed to ensuring constituencies remain informed on the committee deliberations and therefore reinstated post-committee meeting de-brief calls, to provide a readout to the Board of the discussions and outcomes of the committee meetings.

Focus Area 2: Committee alignment with Board priorities

- v. **Holistic review of Board and committee agendas:** Draft agendas for the committee meetings were shared alongside an indicative list of upcoming Board priorities to ensure that committee discussions and decisions focused on areas which lead to decisions, or substantive Board discussions on strategic issues.
- vi. **Strategic agendas:** Following the successful rollout of the criteria for strategic agenda development used for the recent Board meetings, criteria for prioritized agendas was rolled out for committees. At recent meetings the focus has been on considering the added value of each topic and to prioritize decision and input items, while limiting information only items. The graphic below provides a breakdown by topic type for each of the committees at the October meetings.



vii. **Engagement with Executive Director:** While not a requirement, the Executive Director has participated, at least in part, in every meeting during this period at the invitation of the CG with the objective of hearing his vision for the Global Fund, providing briefings from the perspective of the CG and committees, and reflecting on areas for enhanced engagement between the Secretariat and governance bodies.

Focus Area 3: Collaboration between the three committees

viii. **Enabling strategic focus:** the CG recognizes its important responsibility of enabling the Board to operate at a strategic level, and committed to further enhancing the approach to strategic Board agendas and review of work plans. The CG has also noted its important role in guiding matters effectively to the Board, ensuring discussions involve relevant governance bodies, without unnecessary overlap.

ix. **Cross-cutting matters:** The management of Cross-Cutting matters continues to improve with the CG continuing to refine the coordination between the relevant committees. Efforts continue to clearly define which items are cross-cutting, and to ensure that each committee focuses on specific parts of a proposal or issue as determined by their mandates. To help ensure that the committees are providing the guidance needed, the CG asked that the respective technical leads within the Secretariat should be engaged earlier in the planning process, to provide their views into the nature and timing of information needed from the respective committees.

Committee Priorities for upcoming period

6. At the October 2018 in-person meeting, the CG reviewed and updated the current priority areas. The priority areas identified are aligned with the upcoming priorities of the Board and include:

- AFC:
 - 3 year allocation to OPEX in relation to allocation methodology for next cycle
 - Implementation of Innovative Financing
 - Moving this work from development to action
 - Embedding Risk Management into decision-making
 - Resource mobilization plan for replenishment
 - Domestic Financing Strategy

- EGC
 - Governance Action Plan
 - Board Culture
 - Committee selection processes
 - Framework for private sector engagements

- SC
 - Allocation Methodology
 - Main focus of SC work through May 2019
 - Ensure measured approach to Board, providing information and clarity to enable an informed decision at Board meeting May 2019
 - Schedule of thematic reviews by TERG
 - Setting priority topics for TERG review
 - Thematic reviews can lead to policy discussions/decisions, timings need to align with Global Fund activities
 - Domestic Financing

Annexes

- Annex 1. List of decisions adopted by committees between the 39th and 40th Board meetings.