

Comments from FIND, the global alliance for diagnostics to the World Bank in response to the White Paper on Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPR)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the World Bank White Paper on the development of a Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. We acknowledge the vision of the G20 in creating a mechanism to ensure that we are better prepared for an equitable and quick response to the next pandemic. We will briefly provide feedback and suggestions and would be pleased to discuss these in more detail.

Focus of FIF financing:

We are disappointed that the White Paper does not take into consideration the recommendations of G7 leaders from June 2021 when they launched the 100 Days Mission¹. Funding provided by the FIF will not be sufficient to address the next pandemic. The 100DM and implementation plans costed and prepared by CEPI, FIND and others need to feature in any new PRP mechanism. Strategic investments in R&D, local manufacturing and national capacity building are essential parts of preparing for the next pandemic.

Governance:

We align ourselves with the recommendations coming from a range of organizations including GFAN, Joep Lange Institute and the Platform for ACT A CSOs and community representatives². The principle of ensuring meaningful engagement of communities and CSOs is an essential element in sustainable and equitable health programming. We also note that engaging vulnerable populations and groups needs to be prioritized in the governance model adopted by the FIF.

We support the innovative approach to governance of the FIF suggested by Helen Clark and others on behalf of the expert working group on global public investment. The Global Public Investment (GPI)³ model is an approach appropriate to the times. The governance model proposed in the White Paper is no longer relevant or appropriate.

Operating modalities, funding allocation, funds flow and resource mobilization:

The White paper has indicated that as per the World Bank policies in place for FIFs, funding will be direct through existing mechanisms including global and regional organizations, development banks and UN agencies. The response to the pandemic has clearly shown that a coordinated multi-agency approach is needed to ensure an end-to-end response to pandemics. And as fellow ACT-A partners, CEPI, Gavi, and the Global Fund argue in their comments on the FIF, seamless transitions from R&D through manufacturing and procurement to deployment, are essential in addressing pandemics. We therefore recommend that to maximize opportunities for collaboration, Gavi, CEPI, Global Fund, FIND, Unitaaid all be included as implementing entities for the FIF from its initial phase and as partners in the fundamental design.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/100-days-mission-to-respond-to-future-pandemic-threats>

² https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nvCyu4yHm_erfPJ6iSMalrIthbqrhjKp/edit

³ <https://globalpublicinvestment.org/>