

## Sabin Vaccine Institute

I hope you are doing well and have had safe travels from the WHA. On behalf of the Sabin Vaccine Institute, many thanks for the opportunity to comment on the White Paper for the FIF on Pandemic Preparedness.

For a short-hand version of Sabin's commitment to ending the COVID-19 pandemic and preventing future pandemic, [see this video](#) from the recent Global COVID Summit from our VP for Vaccine Innovation and Global Immunization Stacey Knobler. Please find our feedback for consideration regarding the White Paper. We are happy to discuss this feedback with your team at any time.

First, we understand there are many different elements of pandemic preparedness that are being considered to be funded by this initiative. However, while it may seem obvious, sustained support to the **workforce and systems needed to deliver vaccines and ensure high acceptance and demand of vaccines must be an explicitly stated priority for this fund.** Omission of **immunization delivery, acceptance and demand** runs a risk of this central element of pandemic preparedness not getting the focused attention it needs when there is not an acute emergency. We highly encourage inclusion as a core issue the Fund will support.

**Paragraph 15, 19 and 21:** We ask the Bank to make an explicit recommendation for participation as decision-making members of the governing board country/regional government, civil society and associations or communities of practice of the workforce that are collectively charged with implementing pandemic preparedness efforts. The same explicitness for which the White Paper recommends inclusion in paragraph 19 for observers needs to be in paragraph 15 on decision-making members.

“Technical experts” included in paragraph 21 also must include professionals' tasks with leading or directly providing pandemic preparedness efforts at community, sub-national and national levels. In addition, given the White Paper rightly notes the FIF will fund pandemic preparedness using a One Health approach, experts from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) should be included as technical experts to ensure alignment with [WHO, OIE, FAO tripartite guidance](#).

As was relayed in the session you led with the Pandemic Action Network, for which we are very grateful you made the time, real-time understanding of the challenges faced by the health workers, national and sub-national health system professionals, and national- and sub-national animal and environmental health professionals are critical to pandemic preparedness efforts.

For example, in November 2013, one month before the start of the West Africa Ebola epidemic, the [Guinean government stated at the WHO Third Global Forum on Human Resources for Health](#) a stark need to address workforce shortages in two of their provinces and committed to working with partners to address it. Patient zero of that epidemic was living in one of those provinces, and lack of adequate support to the workforce exacerbated preparedness and response to that epidemic.

As managers of the [Boost Community](#) of thousands of immunization professionals around the world and the [Vaccine Acceptance Research Network](#) of hundreds of social and behavioral researchers, we are at your disposal to discuss how associations and networks can be meaningfully engaged in the governance board.

In addition, the associations of health workers – many of which work together under the [World Health Professions Alliance](#) – should be represented as decision-making members on the governing board. In regard to vaccination, the [International Pediatric Association](#), the nursing associations and [campaigns](#) already are actively engaging in immunization preparedness efforts.

Many thanks again for the space to provide feedback to the White Paper. We wish you great success in establishing and swiftly administering financing for this critical issue.

All the best,

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