

STOPAIDS.

STOPAIDS submission: A Proposed Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response Hosted by the World Bank

In response to the White Paper, 'A Proposed Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response Hosted by the World Bank' we share 'Recommendations for the Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPR)' signed by 123 organisations and individuals. This briefing outlines key recommendations on Finance; Governance; and Operating Modalities to inform the development of this new mechanism and we share here key points from the briefing in response to the consultation questions:

Financing:

We advocate for using the Global Public Investment (GPI) approach to strengthen the proposed FIF. Global Public Investment is a new approach to financing global common needs, such as pandemic preparedness, prevention and response. Global Public Investment is a universal contribution approach: all countries contribute, all countries benefit, and all countries get to decide. A GPI structure does not require establishing additional new entities, the change centres upon the governance structure itself and payout would assign funds to wherever they could make the greatest impact in meeting pandemic preparedness needs.

Governance:

A Global Public Investment model would ensure all countries, civil society and communities come together to determine global public policy objectives and to decide how contributions should be allocated to best meet agreed priorities.

To achieve an inclusive governance, we share two key proposals in the briefing -

1. Innovation to existing and proposed board structures for country representation:

A more representative grouping of constituencies, tied to a meaningful voice within the Board, could be achieved through establishing a fair share model and providing countries meeting their fair share contribution in their income bracket with the right to be represented. The number of board seats allocated through this mechanism could be limited to 12-15 groups to maintain the effectiveness and nimbleness of decision making. If more than one country in a given category would meet the required threshold, the countries would select one of them to represent them in the board on a rotational basis. In this model contributing countries would only compete for board seats with countries of a similar income group but not with the countries that represent the small group of traditional donors with the highest per-capita income. The other contributors would be organized in an investors council so that all countries will have access to all information and be consulted on major strategic decisions. The Board would still be the primary organ in which the FIF reached decisions but would provide the much-needed incentives for all countries to contribute to the sustainable financing of the FIF.

2. Adherence to existing global norms in civil society and community representation in governance and decision-making

Civil society and communities are recognised across most global health bodies as critical partners in the global health architecture and must be formally represented in governance and decision-making processes as well as technical areas of work.

The proposed observer role would be insufficient to ensure meaningful engagement of civil society and communities. The side-lining of civil society and communities in an observer role ignores the strength they have at national, regional and international levels in all areas of health which will have a negative impact on pandemic preparedness and response mechanisms. The importance of formal representation of civil society and communities in governance structures is well recognised by organisations including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund), Unitaid, GAVI, GFF and others.

The new FIF must ensure meaningful participation of civil society and communities in its Board and all decision-making processes, including permanent representation of civil society and community constituencies, provision of voting rights and funding to constituencies to support engagement with broader civil society and communities.

Operating modalities

The requirement of a World Bank policy waiver, subject to a risk-based review, for global and regional organisations beyond Multilateral Development Banks and UN agencies outlined in the White Paper, must not be a barrier to organisations that have played a key role in the COVID-19 response and support community-led health systems such as Global Fund, Unitaid, FIND, Gavi and CEPI.