

IFPMA

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Date: May 31, 2022 at 1:14:08 PM EDT
To: Priya Basu [REDACTED]
Cc: Maria Dimitriadou [REDACTED], Rachida Toudert [REDACTED],
[REDACTED], Guilherme Cintra [REDACTED], [REDACTED],

Subject: IFPMA Comments - White Paper FIF for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response [External]

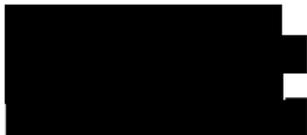
Dear Priya,

On behalf of the IFPMA, I am pleased to share with you our comments on the FIF PPR White Paper,

Best regards,

Nina

Nina Grundmann
Deputy Director, Health Security &
Chief of Staff



IFPMA’s comments on the “Proposed Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response Hosted by the World Bank”

In July 2021, the G20 High Level Independent Panel¹ called for a five-year investment of at least \$75 billion over the next five years, or \$15 billion per year, to address gaps in pandemic prevention and preparedness. With the proposed Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF), we are pleased to see that the need for increased funding for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPR) has been recognized and would like to express our support for the formation of a multilateral PPR financing mechanism.

¹ <https://pandemic-financing.org/report/high-level-summary/>
² https://www.ifpma.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/IFPMA_COVID-19_Pandemic_Lessons_Learned_May_2022.pdf

Industry has consistently raised the need to address important financial gaps in the global health architecture and in our recently released C19 Lessons Learned report² we explain why pandemic preparedness commensurate up-front and continuing financing is critical. The size of the investments needed remain marginal compared to the cost of a pandemic. While ending this pandemic and better preparing for the next one demands an end-to-end, lab-to-last-mile strategy, we strongly advise that the FIF does not spread itself too thin and focuses on a few

strategic needs. We believe that the most impactful use of the FIF resources will be on country readiness and health system strengthening. The C19 pandemic has demonstrated the imperative of strengthening national health systems and ensuring universal health coverage for everyone, everywhere. Strong health systems with reliable primary care and well-established routine immunization structures in place to vaccinate all age-groups will be better prepared in the event of outbreaks and thereby help prevent them from becoming pandemics. The health systems focus should also include capacity building for efficient procurement for LICs, for example by supporting regional and in-country procurement management.

We are encouraged to see that the FIF will help support and prioritize PPR in inter-pandemic times. We believe that continued investments and timely availability of funding both during pandemic and “peace” times is critical to ensure better pandemic preparedness. Increasing health systems robustness and resilience requires long term global and local investments which cannot happen after a pandemic has already hit. Furthermore, when a pandemic is declared, sufficient dedicated and sustainable financing and technical assistance must be available immediately to countries with limited or no capacity to finance their own pandemic purchases. While we understand that the FIF’s scope will not provide financing for purchases, this remains an important bottleneck to ensure equitable access and should be properly addressed in any future mechanism. The timely availability of funding is key to ensure mechanisms like COVAX can compete on an equal footing with wealthy nations and therefore support equitable access to pandemic products for LICs. Experience has shown that whilst such funding was eventually secured for COVAX, the same could not be said for COVID-19 therapeutics as they became available.

The private sector has played a critical role in developing tests, treatments, and vaccines, and will remain central in any future pandemic response. Even though targeted financial support and incentives for R&D de-risking and manufacturing scale-up may be important for health emergencies, we believe that they are better addressed through specialized partnerships; its inclusion in the FIF may lead to the Fund losing its focus and capacity to properly address its core objective or to enhance capacity-building.

Finally, we believe that the governance model adopted by the FIF will play a critical role in its success. We are supportive of an inclusive approach which would leverage the biopharmaceutical industry expertise and experience on PPR including on health systems capacity. We support the principles of simplicity and complementarity outlined in the FIF’s proposal, with an approach relying on existing implementing entities. We, however, call for a clear distinction of roles and responsibilities, in particular between decision making members and implementing entities, to avoid a suboptimal spending of resources.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this paper and stand ready to contribute with the private sector’s expertise on this important initiative.