

Working together, shaping our future

The Global Fund seeks inputs from as wide a circle as it can reach in developing strategy and policy. How does it do this?

‘The Partnership Forum is essentially the parliament of the Global Fund. It’s not just any meeting, but one of the key governance structures of the fund.’ Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

The Global Fund Partnership Forum

At the end of June the Global Fund will hold the main event of its 2011 Partnership Forum. The 3-day conference is the culmination of a series of consultations that employ a variety of channels to reach all Global Fund partners, with a particular focus on those not formally represented elsewhere in Global Fund governance. The principal goal is to gather feedback on the organisation’s progress and advice on its strategy, policy, and practice. The Partnership Forum refers to the whole of this months-long consultative process and not to the conference alone.

The Partnership Forum is one of the Global Fund’s key governance structures. It is an advisory body convened every two and half years to provide recommendations to the Board and Secretariat – the organisation’s decision-making and executive bodies, respectively. As well as a forum for frank debate, it serves as an important platform for advocacy, fund-raising, and the recruitment of new partners. The Partnership Forum is also an opportunity to assess the views of Global Fund partners on the extent to which the Global Fund is meeting the partnership principles set out in its constitution.

Partnership forms the very basis of the Global Fund model, which emphasises its importance at every level – from the multistakeholder Board to the diverse membership of the Country Coordinating Mechanisms that develop and submit national grant proposals. Civil society, bilateral and multilateral partners, the private sector, people living with or affected by the three diseases, private foundations, developed and developing country governments – all have a place in the Global Fund and a stake in its success. Any person or entity concerned with the fight against the three diseases is a Global Fund stakeholder and the Partnership Forum’s mandate is to collect their input.

While the Board is not bound to act on Partnership

This article has been written by the Communications Department at the Global Fund headquarters in Geneva.

Forum recommendations, the majority of recommendations emerging from the three previous conferences (2004 Bangkok, Thailand; 2006 Durban, South Africa; 2008 Dakar, Senegal) have been implemented – rising to 82% for the last forum. Partnership Forums are

proven to make a difference. Key achievements of the 2008 forum include two high-level frameworks for action: the Partnership Strategy, and the Strategy in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities.

2011 Partnership Forum: ‘working together, shaping our future’

Access, accountability, rights

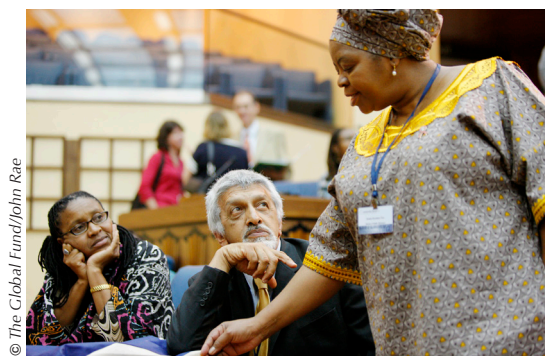
Each forum has a theme to guide feedback. Historically, forums have always coincided with strategic framework assess-

ments. The first contributed to shaping the young institution. The second input to the design of the evaluation that followed completion of the first full grant cycle (the Five Year Evaluation) and to the 2007–2010 corporate strategy. The third forum helped determine the prioritisation and implementation of the recommendations emerging from the 5-Year Evaluation. The theme for this year’s forum is taken from the draft 2011–2016 corporate strategy whose objectives include *access* for all to services to fight the three diseases, maximising value for donor money (*accountability*), and the promotion of human *rights*. The forum will focus on evaluating the draft strategy and designing its implementation framework.

Partner consultations, March–June

Virtual consultations began in April with a multilingual online survey that is structured round the five fundamentals of the Global Fund model:

1. Principles and mandate – still relevant today 10 years on from the agency’s launch?
2. Implementation and results – are resources being allocated appropriately?
3. Constituency engagement and governance – is the model working at country level?
4. Oversight and accountability – do they need strengthening?



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Discussions in Senegal: the building blocks of the Partnership Forum

5. Innovation for impact – how can the Global Fund increase its impact on the three diseases?

The survey questionnaire is complemented by an e-Forum for broad-based discussions in English, French, Russian, and Spanish open until the end of May. The email dialogue will focus on strategic questions developed in collaboration with the technical partnerships to fight the three diseases. Multilingual moderators will facilitate discussions and summarise outcomes.

Stakeholders can also join in the Partnership Forum conversation via social media. Facebook and Twitter are linked into the e-Forum with weekly summaries of discussions that are posted on the Global Fund Facebook page and ‘tweeted’. Alternatively, people can video their contribution, post it on YouTube and send the link. Twitter is a vital channel for input from Africa where internet access is often poor but millions have mobile phones.

The purpose of the e-consultations, which are open to all, is to give every stakeholder the chance to have their say rather than confine this privilege to the 400 invited to represent them at the conference in June. E-Forum outcomes, together with the survey findings, will help shape the subjects for debate at the conference as well as feed into the overall recommendations that will be presented to the Global Fund Board at the close of the conference.

Main conference, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 28–30 June

The June conference is the most important of the forum’s face-to-face consultations. These include in-depth interviews with key informants in countries with high disease burdens and partner-led meetings such as the UNDP, UNAIDS, Open Society Institute meeting in March on human rights, which produced a discussion topic for the forum: what does the inclusion of human rights in the new Global Fund strategy mean for programme implementation?

Participation in the conference is by invitation only. Together with partners, the Global Fund developed a matrix to ensure invitees are balanced across gender, region, disease, and constituency, among other criteria, with the overall aim of increasing attendance from the Global South to 75% – as compared with 65% at the 2008 conference. Other significant changes include increases in TB and malaria representation, and the introduction of gender criteria for the first time. Participation in previous conferences is also taken into account to ensure new voices are heard, and a number of funded places are available for those unable to cover their own costs.

Figure 1 Recommended participant balance by region and sector (government/non-government)

Regions - 8 Global Fund grant management regions and Global North	Government	Non-Government	Total
West and Central Africa	8	5	13
East Africa and Indian Ocean	8	5	13
Southern Africa	8	5	13
Middle East and North Africa	2	1	3
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	8	5	13
South Asia	7	4	11
East Asia and Pacific	8	4	12
Latin America and Caribbean	5	5	10
Global North	-	-	-
Total	54	34	88¹

Figure 2 Recommended balance by disease and gender

By disease ² :	By gender ³ :	Compare: 2008 Partnership Forum figures:
40% HIV	50% Female	• 40% HIV
15% TB	50% Male	• 7% TB,
20% Malaria		• 10% Malaria,
15% HSS/Crosscutting		• 43% crosscutting/HSS
10% Community systems strengthening, Global South focus		Rationale for 2011 proposed figures:
		• Maintains 40% HIV
		• Seeks to increase TB and malaria to more closely reflect actual portfolio balance
		• Leaves space to invite new CSS voices



Sri Lanka: gathering vital information where it matters

A multilingual team of ten (including Kiswahili, French and Arabic speakers) has been selected from across disease areas and stakeholder groups to facilitate the conference and all plenary sessions will be interpreted. The quality of participation will be enhanced with “pre-skilling” sessions held for invitees before the conference to support clear understanding of Global Fund policies and the draft corporate strategy.

How to participate in the 2011 Partnership Forum

To access the e-Forum, which runs until the end of May, go to www.aidsportal.org. Use #globalfundconsult in Tweets to join the conversation via Twitter. Post videos on YouTube and send the link to globalfundconsult@aidportal.org. The online survey closed at the end of April and the June conference is by invitation only.

Footnotes to Figures 1 and 2

- 76 implementers attended the 2008 Forum. 2011 targeted distribution based on % funding according to current grant portfolio with the notable exception of LAC to account for 2011 conference location (Brazil).
- Focus on implementers who work across all aspects of programme implementation, including people who use injecting drugs, sex workers, community service providers, care givers, etc.
- Equal proportion of male/female, including those who self-define as transgender or other.