Communities Delegation Constituency Statement
Global Fund 37th Board Meeting

GF/B37/10: Ethics Office Annual Report and Opinion 2016
- We appreciate the efforts towards the evaluation on ethics in the secretariat and the Global Fund at large towards embedding an ethical culture.
- We note with concern that there were more than 60 individual cases of conflict of interest related matters. Our delegation would like to request clear information as to the number of cases resolved, number of cases outstanding, and the reasons for the outstanding cases as to why they were not resolved in a timely manner.
- While we understand that the scope of work related to Ethics is more related to ethical conduct of individuals within different Global Fund bodies, we also want to express our interest in engaging in a Board discussions around ethical principles in the context of how Global Fund “behave” as an organisation.

- We commend the report for being able to identify what the challenges and problems are. We request for a clear plan from the OIG and/or Secretariat on how these problems will be solved and who will be responsible.
- We appreciate the Data Use for Action and Improvement Framework that is designed to improve value for money and quality of service delivery and would request further information on the challenges in implementing the Data Use for Action and Improvement Framework.

GF/B37/16: Funding Model Implementation Report on the 2014 – 2016 period
- We welcome the positivity on the survey results, and have the following request for clarifications:
  - There is a clear difference between participants and TRP feedback responses in the survey. For example: in page 28, even though most participants feel that human rights and gender-related barriers have been adequately discussed, quite a lot of TRP members disagree with that statement. We would like clear information as to where the disconnection is and an analysis of differences in the responses.
  - We are aware that survey answers are directly related to who the participants are, therefore we would like to request clear information on who the respondents were with regards to communities, population, membership on CCMs, sub recipients etc.
GF/B37/17: Update on Sustainability, Transition and Co-Financing

● The success(es) of responsible transitioning from Global Fund financing is largely dependent on the political willingness and fiscal space in countries. The challenges were presented during the strategy committee meeting, however, there have been no concrete discussion on how to address them. We understand that this is a fundamental issue that might be beyond STC policy implementation and even beyond Global Fund control. We, therefore, encourage other Board members to take this into consideration in our effort to improve our approach to transition and sustainability issues. We also would like to request the Global Fund Secretariat to work with relevant stakeholders and/or partners and the Strategy Committee to present a range of options for the Board to consider, particularly on political willingness and fiscal space in transitioning countries.

● Assurance is needed that accelerated transition planning does not equate to accelerated transition, and we once again stress the need for countries not to feel rushed nor forced into transition as we believe a forced transition will only bring temporary progress that will not result in sustainability of response.

● Future priorities for STC policy implementation should also include increased community engagement in STC readiness & planning and support for the role of communities. Communities actors are crucial in ensuring that countries maintain their commitments in responding to the diseases.

● We request that transition readiness assessment and other relevant reports/assessments need to be publicly available.

● We have strong concerns on Loan Buy Downs being proposed as one of options for innovative financing related to transition and sustainability. Our primary concern is on community engagement and role in programmes that are supported through loans that will be repaid by the government budget. Another concern is because loan buy downs relies on the assumption that in the future, governments will have enough fiscal space to repay these loans. While loans are becoming everyday business between governments and development banks, we remain highly sceptical on the idea of loan buy downs to cover health expenditures and programs where communities engagement are essential and central components.

● Implementation of the STC policy should focus on operationalization through collaborations with other in-country technical partners, as technical partners will have more capacity and understanding in ensuring increased political willingness and domestic budget adjustments.
GF/B37/18: Annual Report on Communities, Rights and Gender

- We welcome the progresses that have been indicated in the CRG report and we are particularly happy to reflect upon and see improvements on more collaborative work between CRG and other units in the Secretariat. **We note the importance that as one of the Key Pillars of the Global Fund strategy 2017 – 2022, that continued reporting on the collaborations between the CRG department and other departments/units are articulated in the next annual report.**
- While there is clear evidence that the work of the CRG has positively influenced the work of the Global Fund and the work that all departments in the secretariat carry on, and also understanding that most of the results of the CRG work are reflected in other global fund strategic objectives but we would like to request more qualitative and concrete outcomes to be highlighted more clearly in the report.
- We commend the CRG for its leadership in strengthening key population size data by addressing the longstanding deficiencies in data on key population size at country level. We are commending the work of technical partners in this particular area and encourage technical partners to continue the work on key population size data, especially in increasing the quality of data, methodology of size estimation and availability of data among countries.
- We welcome the results that came out from the independent multi-country review of community engagement in Global Fund grant making and implementation process that produces specific recommendations and we look forward to receiving the CRG responses to the recommendations.

GF/B37/22: Board Chair and Vice-Chair Terms of Reference

We would like to see the removal of Section II, paragraph 6 (pg 9):

> “As the Vice-Chair may, at the end of his/her regular term as Vice-Chair, be nominated by a Board constituency as a candidate for the position of Chair, the Vice-Chair should throughout his/her term as Vice-Chair observe and gain an understanding of the responsibilities of the Chair”

We believe that the paragraph is unnecessary, considering:

- Regardless of whether this paragraph is included in the document, there is nothing that will preclude either the sitting Chair/Vice-Chair to be nominated into the respective Chair/Vice-Chair roles
- The paragraph makes an automatic assumption that only the Vice-Chair may be nominated into the Chair position, and is unilateral. Nothing precludes the sitting Chair to be nominated into the Vice-Chair position
- The language creates undesirable presumptions of automatic succession from Vice-Chair to Chair
- The second half of the paragraph creates confusion on priorities, intentions, and responsibilities of the Vice-Chair in performing his/her role.

- We welcome the risk management report and the level of detail provided.
- We request that a more comprehensive overview of the related documents provided by the Secretariat, OIG, and Ethics Office to better understand from a bird’s eye view, what the challenges, risks, risk mitigation strategies/actions, and results of addressing these risks. Without eliminating the individual reports, we encourage the Secretariat, OIG, Risk Officer and Ethics Officer to jointly explore ways to present different aspects of challenges and risk management so the Board have more complete and continuous picture.