



53RD BOARD MEETING NOTES – DECISIONS

1. Decision Point GF/B53/DP01: Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda for the 53rd Board Meeting (GF/B53/01) is approved.

2. Decision Point GF/B53/DP02: Approval of the Rapporteur

Dereck Springer from the Latin America and Caribbean constituency is designated as Rapporteur for the 53rd Board Meeting.

3. Decision Point: GF/B53/DP03: Approval of the Revised Terms of Reference of the Technical Review Panel

The Board notes the recommendation of the Strategy Committee as set forth in GF/SC27/EDP01 and approves the revised Terms of Reference of the Technical Review Panel as set forth in Annex 1 to GF/B53/07, which shall have effect as of the date of this decision.

Budgetary implications: None

53RD BOARD MEETING NOTES – PRE-DAY

Agenda: Pre-Day: RSSH

Date: 7 May 2025

Key Points:

- RSSH has been a consistent priority, particularly under C19RM, with acknowledged progress in community systems across countries.
- Concerns raised on how integration of services (HIV, TB, Malaria) affects communities, and how health systems are perceived—issues of criminalization and human rights were central.
- Country perspectives highlighted:
 - Pakistan: Shared implementation examples from C19RM (e.g., O₂ plants, TB digitalization).
 - Ethiopia: Emphasized PHC investment and inter-facility collaboration; expressed interest in cross-country learning.
- European Commission & German Delegate: Emphasized integration into PHC, transition, governance, and financing modules—questions on omissions in GC8 design.
- UNAIDS: Stressed multisectoral coordination and stronger community roles in planning.
- African Constituency: Called for improved Ministry of Health integration into GF processes.

Action Plan:

- Guidance and clarity needed on integration, co-financing, and transitioning strategies.
- Multisectoral collaboration and rights-based programming must be sustained in future replenishment planning.

Agenda: Pre-Day: Annual Report and Opinion of the Ethics Officer
Date: 7 May 2025

Key Point:

- SEAH (Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment) awareness campaigns from 2023 continue, with pilots in six countries and coordination with CCMs and the OIG.
- South Africa shared updates on M-TB campaign and CCM's grant oversight efforts.
- Ethical principles are emphasized in Global Fund–CCM collaboration.

Action Plan:

- Need to ensure ethics and protection efforts are embedded into broader GF operations and scaled across constituencies.
- Ongoing efforts in ethics mitigation, joint planning, and governance improvements acknowledged.

Agenda: Pre-Day: IEP Annual Report
Date: 7 May 2025

Key Points:

- SEA Constituency appreciated improved collaboration and responsiveness from IEP.
- Recognized improved pre-Board dissemination and planning processes.
- Emphasized the importance of independence, relevance, and utility of evaluations—especially for high-burden regions.
- Gender and human rights are priorities, with ongoing efforts to develop practical guidelines and embed these themes in evaluations.
- Methodological flexibility and sustainability framing were stressed.

Action Plan:

- **Global Fund need to:**
 - Develop a learning strategy and plan for scenario-based evaluations.
 - Apply flexible, context-specific evaluation methods.
 - Ensure evaluations include sustainability, gender, and human rights aspects.
 - Share findings in a timely way to support country-level decision-making.

53RD BOARD MEETING NOTES – DAY 1

Agenda: Update on HIV, TB, Malaria, and RSSH

Date: 8 May 2025

Key Points:

- GF is the largest funder for all three diseases, with malaria as the top-funded.
- HIV funding cuts could lead to millions of new infections and deaths.
- TB integration and efficiency measures are underway.
- Malaria resurgence risk increasing due to climate change.
- Financial sustainability remains a major cross-cutting concern.

Constituency Interventions:

- Prof. Dante Harbuwono - SEA Constituency
 - Highlighted the heavy disease burden in the region, noted that despite progress of HIV, TB, Malaria cases—these gains are at risk.
 - Urged urgent action using tools already available
- African Constituency
 - Emphasized the need for flexible grant implementation to reach vulnerable populations.
 - Called attention to the integration of community systems and health system strengthening as a foundation for resilience.
- Latin America and Caribbean Constituency
 - Stressed the importance of differentiated approaches based on regional context.
 - Supported sustaining community-led responses and ensuring service continuity amid funding pressures.
- UNAIDS
 - Urged protection of key population programs and emphasized the impact of stigma and discrimination.
 - Supported service integration and structural reforms to address barriers to access.
- WHO
 - Called for stronger primary health care systems and highlighted lessons from pandemic responses.
 - Endorsed scaling of diagnostics, digital tools, and preventive interventions like vaccines and long-acting treatments.
- Private Sector / Foundations
 - Highlighted partnerships to advance innovation (e.g., private sector supply chain support, access to new technologies).
 - Pushed for outcome-based financing to maximize impact and sustainability.

- Global Fund Secretariat
 - Warned that reduced funding scenarios could lead to millions of avoidable infections and deaths.
 - Shared modeling showing the urgency to protect current coverage and invest in innovations that will bend the curve.

Action Plan:

- GF Secretariat will continue risk mitigation strategies for product availability and service delivery; support countries in adapting programs.
- SEA Constituency need to assist countries in adjusting program designs, emphasizing integration and equity.
- All Constituencies need to amplify message to global and local partners on the impact of funding reductions and mobilize technical support where needed.

Agenda: Executive Director Update

Date: 8 May 2025

Key Points:

- Reaffirmed the Global Fund's unique role in both disease-specific and system-wide investments.
- Acknowledged challenges from global shifts: geopolitics, economic pressure, and declining donor commitments.
- Emphasized the need for domestic resource mobilization and sustaining gains under reduced allocations.
- Recognized the value of Board collaboration and Constituency leadership in managing funding limitations.

Constituency Interventions:

- Prof. Dante Harbuwono - SEA Constituency
 - Reaffirmed SEA's support for the ED's vision.
 - Called for scaling innovations (malaria nets, long-acting PrEP, shorter TB regimens).
 - Emphasized SEA's commitment to reach communities and support replenishment.
- WHO SEARO
 - Stressed the importance of regional manufacturing capacity.
 - Commended the Global Fund's role in tackling diseases and strengthening health systems.
 - Supported collaboration for integrated surveillance and pandemic preparedness.
- UNAIDS Representative
 - Emphasized the role of community-led responses.
 - Highlighted the need to protect gains in HIV prevention and treatment.
- France Constituency
 - Encouraged strong collaboration to sustain gains.
 - Reiterated support for efficiency in investment under fiscal constraints.
- UK Constituency
 - Focused on the importance of country ownership and accountability in delivering outcomes.
- Private Foundations
 - Highlighted innovative financing and the potential for more flexible models.
- Peter Sands - Executive Director, The Global Fund
 - Delivered the update on progress and challenges post-COVID.
 - Emphasized gains in innovation and urged acceleration despite reduced resources.

Action Plan:

- GF Secretariat will provide internal prioritization guidance aligned with reduced resources.
- All Board Members need to maintain high-level advocacy for resource mobilization and cross-constituency collaboration.
- SEA Constituency need to facilitate dialogue with national programs to maintain performance under budget pressure.

Agenda: Risk Management and CRO Annual Opinion

Date: 8 May 2025

Key Points:

- Major risks: financial sustainability, country absorptive capacity, geopolitical instability.
- Data quality and execution monitoring remain weak in some portfolios.
- Key mitigation plans have been developed but require more aggressive follow-through.

Constituency Interventions:

- Dr. Samitha Ginige - SEA Constituency
 - SEA Constituency called for stronger country-level risk mitigation, transparency in risk-sharing, and flexibility in grant execution, especially for countries in complex settings.
- African Constituency
 - Stressed the need for differentiated approaches based on regional and country contexts and encouraged improved responsiveness to in-country grant delivery risks
- Communities Constituency
 - Urged that the Risk Appetite Framework include community-level implementation risks and called for participatory risk planning.
- WHO
 - Reinforced the link between risk and health systems resilience and stressed integration of health emergency readiness into the Global Fund's risk strategy.
- Global Fund Secretariat
 - Acknowledged elevated risk environment post-COVID and global economic pressures.
 - Emphasized internal prioritization and country ownership in managing risks.

Action Plan:

- GF Secretariat will update and localize risk mitigation strategies, especially for fragile or underperforming portfolios.
- SEA Constituency need to work with PRs and CCMs to elevate risk visibility and reporting quality.
- All Board Members need to encourage accountability from implementers and share effective country mitigation experiences.

Agenda: Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Update

Date: 8 May 2025

Key Points:

- High number of financial mismanagement cases in PRs; some repeat findings.
- Internal control failures persist in procurement and financial reporting.
- OIG recommends accelerated Secretariat and PR follow-up on all red flags.

Constituency Interventions:

- Ms Zelia Fernandes - SEA Constituency
 - SEA Constituency acknowledged the OIG's evolving role and emphasized the need for better coordination between audit recommendations and country realities, especially in complex settings.
- African Constituency
 - Raised concerns about recurring systemic issues and requested the OIG to develop more actionable, time-bound recommendations.
- Developed Country NGO
 - Highlighted the importance of transparency and public communication of audit outcomes, especially where grant performance is at risk.
- GF Secretariat
 - OIG presented its Annual Report with a focus on audit and investigation themes, noted increased fraud risk, and emphasized need for proactive governance responses.

Action Plan:

- GF Secretariat will enforce deadlines for PRs in responding to audit recommendations; escalate non-compliance.
- SEA Constituency need to promote national-level governance training and financial compliance awareness.
- All CCMs and PRs need to strengthen internal controls, especially in procurement and reporting; ensure audit readiness.

53RD BOARD MEETING NOTES – DAY 2

Agenda: GC8: Approach to Mid-Cycle Grant Adaptations (GC7)

Date: 9 May 2025

Key Points:

- Some country allocations will be reduced; reprioritization is mandatory.
- Priority will be life-saving and high-impact interventions.
- Stakeholder engagement (CCM, PR, TRP) is critical in the revision process.
- Catalytic funds and matching funds may also be scaled down.

Constituency Interventions:

- Dr Anupong Sujariyakul - SEA Constituency
 - SEA Constituency supported the revised mid-cycle grant adaptation framework, particularly in light of fiscal challenges. They emphasized the need to protect core interventions and ensure country ownership throughout adaptation processes.
- African Constituency
 - African Constituency expressed concern about reduced allocations impacting high-burden countries. They stressed ensuring equity and meaningful engagement of CCMs in adaptation decisions.
- Developing Country NGO
 - Highlighted the need for civil society engagement and cautioned against adaptation processes becoming too technocratic or removed from community realities.
- GF Secretariat
 - Presented the revised GC7 adaptation approach as a more flexible, responsive mechanism that aligns with evolving country contexts and aims to preserve impact while managing risk.

Action Plan:

- GF Secretariat will initiate transparent consultations with PRs and CCMs on reprioritization frameworks.
- All Constituencies and PRs need to actively engage in identifying country-specific priorities and ensure inclusion of lifesaving interventions.
- SEA Constituency need to provide technical support to countries during adaptation and document emerging lessons.

Agenda: TRP Terms of Reference (ToR) Revision

Date: 9 May 2025

Key Points:

- Focus on contextualized, equity-driven proposal assessments.
- Need for better balance of geographic, gender, and technical representation.
- Streamlining TRP processes without compromising rigor.

Constituency Interventions:

- Prof Dante Harbuwono - SEA Constituency
 - SEA Constituency supported the TRP ToR revisions and emphasized the importance of integrating regional representation and cross-country learning. They supported clearer delineation of TRP roles to avoid overlap with the Grant Approvals Committee (GAC).
- Communities Constituency
 - Emphasized the need for community and civil society perspectives to be reflected more strongly in TRP assessments, particularly on human rights and gender equity.
- Board Leadership/TRP Chair
 - Acknowledged the need for evolution in TRP's role given the changing funding landscape. Reinforced the importance of transparency, consistency in reviews, and technical independence.

Action Plan:

- GF Secretariat will ensure TRP composition reflects diversity, regional knowledge, and technical balance.
- All Constituencies will nominate qualified experts from respective regions for TRP pool.
- SEA Constituency need to recommend experts with lived experience and relevant in-country knowledge

Agenda: Resource Mobilization Update

Date: 9 May 2025

Key Points:

- 7th Replenishment underperformed vs. targets.
- Mid-cycle cuts are necessary to remain within budget envelope.
- Need to diversify donor base and deepen private sector engagement.
- Emphasis on co-financing and domestic resource mobilization.

Constituency Interventions:

- Dr Jigmi Singay - SEA Constituency
 - SEA Constituency acknowledged the challenging global financing landscape and committed to supporting replenishment efforts, particularly through stronger regional advocacy and government engagement. They highlighted the need to make a compelling investment case by emphasizing the lives impacted.
- African Constituency
 - Urged the Board to ensure fairness in donor outreach and called for stronger accountability to pledges. They also emphasized domestic financing must not replace, but complement, donor contributions.
- Private Sector Constituency
 - Expressed readiness to contribute through innovation, visibility campaigns, and financial partnerships. Suggested simplifying engagement pathways for non-traditional donors.
- UNAIDS
 - Reaffirmed the Global Fund's critical role and called for stronger alignment in advocacy to secure high-level political support across regions.
- GF Secretariat
 - Some donors have signaled delays in disbursing their pledges—though they remain committed—while others have confirmed they will not convert their pledges at all.
 - In response, the Global Fund will tailor its engagement and communication strategies to each donor's context and capacity.
 - High-level events are essential for driving political momentum and financial commitments, but targeted, strategic gatherings also offer valuable opportunities for deeper donor engagement.
 - The upcoming G20 in South Africa is seen as a key moment to advance replenishment efforts by leveraging the presence of global leaders.

Action Plan:

- GF Secretariat need to expand outreach to private and non-traditional donors; develop innovative financing pathways.
- All Board Members / Constituencies need to continue political advocacy for sustained and increased funding from donor governments.
- SEA Constituency and CCM need to strengthen domestic resource mobilization and highlight successful co-financing models.

Agenda: Closing Session

Date: 9 May 2025

Key Points:

- Gratitude extended to Board members and observers for navigating difficult trade-offs.
- The Global Fund is prioritizing life-saving, disease- and country-specific interventions, emphasizing community-led efforts and RSSH.
- Targeted communication will guide PRs and CCMs, while new guidance will support CRG monitoring.
- Diverging views within CCMs are recognized as part of healthy decision-making. Updates on catalytic investments will be reviewed by the Strategy Committee in July, with all grant revisions expected by September.
- The Grant Management Division will define “life-saving” interventions and engage with Ministers of Health during WHA and future GC7 communications.
- Governance adjustments include rescheduling the November Board meeting to February 2026, planning a Board Retreat in May 2026, and holding the 55th Board Meeting in July 2026.
- Leadership transitions for the Executive Director and Board will follow updated procedures.

Action Plan:

- GF Secretariat will communicate timelines and follow-up processes from Board decisions.
- All Board Members need to share key takeaways with regional stakeholders and begin preparations for upcoming committee cycles.
- SEA Constituency need to hold post-meeting debrief to align country follow-up actions and identify support needs.

List of Delegates

1. Prof Dante Harbuwono
2. Ms Aishath Samiya
3. Aqsha Nur
4. Dr Jigmi Singay
5. Dr Purna Samitha Ginige
6. Dr Anupong Sujariyakul
7. Ms Zelia Fernandes
8. Mr Abdul Hameed

