

**SEA constituency statement**  
**48<sup>th</sup> Global Fund Board meeting**  
**14-17 November 2022**

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable fellow Board Members, Alternate Board Members and Delegates, Global Fund leadership and Representatives of Partner Organizations, Ladies and Gentleman.

On behalf of the SEA constituency, I wish to express our congratulations to Global Fund, to its leadership and staff, and to its coordination committees for the intensive work leading to this Board meeting, and to the successful resource mobilization at the recent replenishment meeting. We recognize that there is work to be done to reach the 18 billion USD target for the full implementation of the GF strategy.

We recognize the deep commitment expressed by the Global Fund Executive Director to implement the GF Strategy “Fighting Pandemics and Building a Healthier and More Equitable World”, accelerating the progress in protecting everyone, everywhere, from the deadliest infectious diseases, from the pandemics we have yet to defeat, such as HIV, TB and malaria; from the current pandemic of COVID-19; and from the new pandemics that will inevitably emerge.

The recent pledging conference for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, hosted by the President of the United States of America, raised more than US\$14.25 billion so far for the work over the next three years. This investment will also strengthen health and community systems to leave no one behind and to be resilient to future shocks. Several long-term public donors (US, Canada, EU, Germany and Japan) committed to a 30% increase of their contributions over the previous Replenishment, in line with the Global Fund Investment Case, additional pledges are expected from countries still to express their contributions.

With more than US\$1.23 billion raised from private donors, the private sector has hit a new record of funding committed to the Global Fund, led by a 20% increase from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, another 19 organizations and long-standing partners like the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, as well as new and returning ones, pledged to this unprecedented total. Implementing country leaders, also pledging, emphasized the importance of sustaining and increasing domestic investments in health, a critical commitment to the achievement of the Global Fund partnership’s mission.

The Global Fund Board in November 2021 proposed Global Disease Split for the 2023-2025 Allocation acknowledging that the total amount of funds available for country allocation will be decided by the Board in November 2022. The Board acknowledged the increased share of deaths from tuberculosis among the three diseases. Global Disease Split for the 2023-2025 allocation period thus increases funding for tuberculosis while preserving funding and potential for scale-up for HIV and malaria.

The Board, recognizing the need to further increase funding for tuberculosis and maximize the quality and impact of tuberculosis programs in line with the ambition of the Global Fund Strategy Narrative, requested the Secretariat, partners and committees, as relevant, to propose and implement specific options to address these needs, including:

- a. Presenting to the Board, at its 47th meeting, a proposal to leverage catalytic investments for the 2023-2025 allocation period to mobilize additional resources to reduce deaths from tuberculosis;
- b. Aggressively exploring, on an ongoing basis, evidence-based portfolio optimization and prioritization opportunities in order to more effectively address tuberculosis incidence and mortality in high burden countries;

- c. Continuing to pursue and monitor domestic co-financing commitments required to increase overall financing for tuberculosis; and
- d. Continuing to pursue innovative finance opportunities to increase funding to tuberculosis in high burden countries.

In SEA, India, Indonesia and Bangladesh alone represent close to half of the TB burden in the world. Therefore, we have noticed the decisions by the Board on its 47<sup>th</sup> meeting, which draw the attention to the need to increase allocation for TB in the new distribution of allocations at this 48<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Countries of the SEA constituency, many being recipients of Global Fund support, face challenges to reach the Global targets for TB and other disease elimination. SEA countries have agreed to a target of TB elimination by 2030, India and Maldives even by 2025. The countries obviously rely on the guidance given by WHO and other international partners.

SEA countries are constantly affected by malaria and HIV. Those SEA countries which have been approaching malaria elimination have had to postpone their elimination targets due to cross-border transmission. SEA countries have agreed to intensify their efforts to eliminate malaria by 2025 or latest by 2030 and to prevent its reintroduction in countries it has already been eliminated.

International mobility and migration are significant factors in TB, malaria and HIV transmission in the region, combined with many times insufficient access to health services in cross-border context. Therefore, SEA constituency has taken steps to strengthen cross-border coordination and implementation of joint initiatives to address the challenges, including establishment of the SRCMF platform, which is present also in the delegation and has worked to facilitate our participation in the Board meeting.

It would be greatly appreciated if the allocations by GF and other partners for multi-country funding could be increased during their processes of resource mobilization and distribution. In the now proposed GF allocation there is nothing for multi-country catalytic funding for TB, and an allocation only for Mekong RAI and southern Africa malaria initiatives. SEA constituency has the mechanisms ready for intensified multi-country action should funding be available from GF or from other potential sources such as ADB and SDF or other donors.

SEA constituency is looking forward for fruitful discussions and good decisions taken during this GF Board meeting, and confirms its full support to implementation of the decisions. The members of the delegation are ready to provide more detailed information of their country programs, their successes and challenges, as well as of the contributions by the Global Fund and other donors.