



**FRAMEWORK ARRANGEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**The Government of BELGIUM**

**AND**

**The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**

## **Introduction**

The Government of Belgium (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”), represented by the Minister of Development Cooperation, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (hereinafter referred to as “the Global Fund”), Each one hereinafter referred to as “Participant” and together “the Participants”,

**Considering** that the Global Fund has following strategic objectives:

- Maximize Impact against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria
- Build Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health
- Promote and Protect Human Rights and Gender Equality
- Mobilize Increased Resources

**Considering** that the opportunity of cooperation with the Global Fund in health development is related to the consistency of the Global Fund’s work with the global aid architecture and the Government's cooperation policy, which includes:

- Contribution towards the implementation of the Sustainable Developmental Goals;
- Transparency and inclusion of the civil society in governance and implementation;
- Right and access of the most vulnerable groups and the priority given to finance countries with the highest disease burden and lowest economic capacity;
- Aid efficiency and alignment to national programs to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in collaboration with development partners including specifically the international Belgian partner organizations WHO, UNAIDS and the Internal Health Partnership (IHP+).

**Considering** that the Government is committed to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and will focus on two main policy areas: sustainable, inclusive economic growth and the rights-based approach to development, and is committed to spend at least 50% of its official development assistance (ODA) to the least developed countries (LDCs).

**Now**, therefore, the Participants have decided to enter into a Framework Arrangement to strengthen their relationship and therefore provide a coherent, predictable and structured framework for collaboration between the Government and the Global Fund.

**The Government and the Global Fund** agree as follows:

### **Paragraph 1: Objectives**

The objectives of the Framework Arrangement between the Government and the Global Fund are to facilitate enhanced collaboration at all levels, to recognize/bear witness to the Government’s support for the Global Fund and to support the Global Fund in the realization of its objectives through provision of voluntary contributions.

## **Paragraph 2: Scope**

### **1. Policy dialogue**

- a. The Government and the Global Fund agree that the strategic objectives guiding the work of the Global Fund are set forth in the Global Fund Strategic Framework (2017-2022, and subsequent periods), which is approved by the Global Fund Board.
- b. The Government and the Global Fund agree that policy issues of mutual interest include:
  - Ensuring access to prevention, treatment, care and support for the three diseases (AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria) with a focus on highest burden countries with the lowest economic capacity, and on key and vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by the three diseases through a strong underlying health system, essential to achieving universal health coverage, through services that are accessible, efficient, integrated, and achieve impact. Therefore there is a need to strengthen global and in-country procurement and supply chain systems, and human resources for health are a key factor as a building block of health system functioning.
  - National leadership and an inclusive process mobilizing the civil society;
  - Special attention for sexual and reproductive health and the fight against HIV/AIDS;
  - Promoting and protecting human rights and gender equality in order to accelerate the end of the epidemics.
- c. The Government and the Global Fund agree that the following components are integral to the Global Fund model: transparent processes, national applications aligned with national strategies, the appraisal of applications by an independent Technical Review Panel (TRP), the inclusion of civil society and other stakeholders in application development and program oversight, assurance provided at multiple levels, including through Local Fund Agents and performance-based financing.
- d. In addition, for the Government the priority given to the most affected and most in need countries is of utmost importance. Additionally, it will be important to seek to integrating the interventions in the national health systems and their national management and coordination structures.
- e. To enhance coherence in the partner countries for the bilateral Belgian Development Cooperation (currently: Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Morocco, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, and the Palestinian Territory), the Government and the Global Fund will indicate focal points for the exchange of information on applicable in-country health support programmes.

### **2. Provision of resources**

#### **Letter of Intent**

- a. From 2017 onwards, the Government intends to provide funding to the Global Fund for periods of 4 years.



- b. A letter of intent from the Government will in such a case signal the parliamentary approval of the contribution to the Global Fund for the 4 years period. The letter of intent will include the amount of the contribution and expected contribution schedule.

#### **Payment request**

- a. The voluntary contribution will be paid in yearly instalments.
- b. The voluntary contribution will be paid upon receipt of a yearly payment request, which should refer to the letter of intent, include the amount of the contribution in EUROS, the Global Fund's bank account number (plus bank details) and the payment reference (identification) to be used in the bank instruction.

#### **To this end the Global Fund will:**

- a. Use the resources provided by the Government only for planned and budgeted activities of the Global Fund.
- b. Report the resources provided by the Government as revenue in its accounts, and will administer the contributions and activities financed with these resources in conformity with its internal policies and procedures (the "Financial Rules & Regulations").
- c. Subject the financed activities to the internal and external audit procedures as laid down in its Financial Rules & Regulations.
- d. Identify the use of Belgian contributions within the framework of its global financial reporting system to the member states and the donor community in accordance with its standard reporting procedures.
- e. Send a copy of the certification of Financial Statements by the External Auditor of the years required to the Government through the regular procedures in accordance with the regular cycle.
- f. Make due mention of the support of the Government to its activities in relevant donor listings.

### **Paragraph 3: Follow-up Consultations**

1. The Government will participate in the Global Fund Board through the European Commission constituency (EC, Belgium, Portugal, Spain and Italy). Through its participation in the Board, the Government will have input into key Global Fund policies, strategies and budgets. The Government will also receive all detailed financial reporting on the use of contributions, as provided to the Global Fund Board.
2. The Government and the Global Fund will hold one or two consultations within the 4 years on dates mutually agreed by both Participants to exchange views on policies and activities of the Global Fund, especially for those areas of interest for policy dialogue as expressed in this agreement. The consultation will be held alternately at the headquarters of the organization and in Brussels.
3. Beyond formal monitoring and reporting requirements, the Global Fund agrees to keep the Government informed of key issues, problems and progress related to the areas of specific Belgian interest as described above as appropriate through regular Board and Board Committee reporting channels.

#### **Paragraph 4: Audit and oversight**

1. Under the Documents Policy adopted and amended from time to time by the Global Fund Board, the general policy of the Global Fund is to operate in a transparent and accountable manner.
2. Under the Charter of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), as adopted and amended from time to time by the Board, the OIG provides the Global Fund with independent and objective assurance over the design and effective of controls or processes in place to manage the key risks impacting the Global Fund's programs and operations, including the quality of such controls and processes. Accordingly, the activities of the OIG include internal audit, in-country reviews, assurance validation, inspection, investigations, counter-fraud, and consulting and other services.
3. Under its Bylaws, the Global Fund's financial accounts are audited annually by an external, independent auditor and presented to the Board for approval.
4. The Board-approved Risk Management Policy, as amended from time to time, establishes parameters to guide the Global Fund's aim to make risk management integral to its operations, planning and decision-making.

#### **Paragraph 5: General Provisions**

1. This Framework Arrangement will enter into force upon signature by both Participants.
2. This Framework Arrangement will remain in force unless terminated by mutual agreement or by one Participant terminating the Framework Arrangement by three months written notice to the other Participant.
3. The Participants may mutually agree to amend this Framework Arrangement through an exchange of letters.
4. This Framework Arrangement does not constitute a Treaty.

### Paragraph 6: Representation and communication

1. For the implementation of the Framework Arrangement, the Government will be represented by the Minister of Development Cooperation or his/her designate, while the Global Fund will be represented by the Executive Director or his/her designate.
2. All communication on this Framework Arrangement will be between the above-mentioned persons and/or their representatives.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed the Framework Arrangement in two originals in the English language.

**For the Government of Belgium**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Alexander De Croo  
Title: Minister of Development Cooperation  
Date: 15 June 2016  
Place: Brussels, Belgium

**For the Global Fund**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Mark Dybul  
Title: Executive Director  
Date: 15 June 2016  
Place: Brussels, Belgium