

Update, September 2003

2nd Stop TB Partners' Forum

Date and venue: 4-5 December 2003 - New Delhi, India

1. Background on the Global Stop TB Partners' Forum

In March 2000, the Stop TB partnership convened a Ministerial Conference on TB & Sustainable Development in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, bringing together Ministers of health, finance, and development planning from twenty countries that account for almost 80% of the global TB burden participated, together with high-level representatives of UN agencies, donor countries, and technical agencies. Through the *Amsterdam Declaration to Stop TB*, the 20 high-burden countries committed themselves to accelerated action against TB and they called for support in finances, coordination and TB drugs from a global Stop TB partnership.

In response to the Amsterdam Declaration, several major initiatives were established by the Stop TB partnership: the launch of the Global Plan to Stop TB, working groups on DOTS Expansion, TB/HIV, MDR TB and Research, and the Global Drug Facility. In addition, the expansion of the Stop TB Partnership, from 75 members in 2000 to over 250 in 2002, reflects growing interest and commitment to global TB control.

The *first Stop TB Partners' Forum* was convened in Washington, DC, from 22-23 October 2001 just 18 months after the groundbreaking Amsterdam Declaration to Stop TB in March 2000. This meeting, a milestone in the chronicle of global TB control, brought together some 200 participants from around the world, in particular representatives from 18 of the 22 TB high-burden countries. This national presence shows the resolute commitment of hardest-hit countries to come to grips themselves with the TB crisis in their midst. The Washington Commitment is a declaration endorsed by all Forum participants, initiating a countdown to reaching the global TB targets for the following 50 days, 50 weeks and 50 months.

With the Amsterdam Declaration in 2000 and the Washington Commitment in 2001, we have finally secured the political commitment and operational mechanisms needed to control TB and are poised to make rapid progress against the disease towards reaching the 2005 targets on time.

But, the Stop TB partnership faces major challenges that require engagement of entities outside of the regular TB community, including human resources for health, primary care services, sustainable finances, social mobilization for health, private and corporate sectors' involvement. The 2nd Partners Forum will provide a timeline and act as catalyst to address several of the above challenges.

2. India as host-country

India is one of the highest TB burden countries, and it is also one of the countries making the most rapid progress in expanding DOTS, the treatment to Tuberculosis. With this rate of progress and continuing to address the major challenges, India is going to reach the global TB targets by 2005. India is an example for many other countries struggling with TB, yet providing treatment to it's patients. New approaches which are undertaken in India, such as collaboration with the private sector, are models for other countries.

By having the 2nd Stop TB Partners' Forum in India, there is an opportunity to highlight such examples (e.g. public-private collaboration, workplace TB activities, community mobilization to Stop TB). A higher profile for the Indian programme should result in sustainable support to the Indian TB programme.

3. Objectives and Expected Outcomes

Objectives	Expected Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Report on progress of the Partnership and the implementation of the Global Plan to Stop TB since the 1st Stop TB Partners' Forum;◆ Further accelerate efforts to address country constraints, needs and proposed solutions to reach the TB targets;◆ Emphasize the need to focus on partnership development and strengthening at country level;◆ Incorporate non-governmental (private and civil sectors) in the implementation of Stop TB activities;◆ Highlight the human face of TB through involvement of people who have been afflicted by TB and HIV/AIDS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Strengthen partnership activities to Stop TB and enhanced collaboration between partners<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Steps forward based on the Partnership Evaluation– Update of the Global Plan to Stop TB reviewed and priorities for action identified– New partnerships with private sector/civil society, including patient groups◆ Consensus on the way forward to reaching the global TB targets:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Generated response to 2nd Ad-hoc Committee– Pledges of high-level political commitment and operational support from partners to presented plans of the top HB countries;– Reinforced commitment to investing in 'New Tools'◆ Momentum of the Forum carried forward by Stop TB campaign

4. Key Messages*

- **The Global Plan and Partnership are *working*.** The Plan is a coherent strategy that has been effectively operationalized by the Partnership to achieve real progress with measurable results, as shown by the numbers for DOTS expansion, GDF, GLC, etc. The Stop TB Partnership is a model for fighting other diseases and public health issues.
- **Funding TB has a certain return on investment.** It helps fight HIV/AIDS, reduces poverty, improves public health systems, and is bringing urgently needed new diagnostics and drugs into development.
- **But progress on TB could be reversed unless we shore up national TB programmes and invest in new approaches.** The continued rapid spread of TB infection, drug resistance and TB/HIV could overwhelm control efforts in the next few years and by doing so put development gains in many countries at risk. National TB programmes and public health systems must be quickly strengthened, and governments in endemic countries must increase their political commitment and operational support to TB control. Greater investment is needed in innovative ways to accelerate DOTS expansion, including PPM, civil sector and community mobilization, and in research for new diagnostics, drugs and vaccines.
- **Without better tools, TB will become more deadly and never be defeated.** Only by developing new drugs, diagnostics and vaccines can progress against TB be rapidly accelerated and the disease eliminated as a global public health problem.
- **We need you.** Stopping TB is much more than just a medical challenge. It requires cooperation with a broadened range of partners in the private and civil sectors -- businesses, religious groups, NGOs and others--to achieve universal DOTS coverage, accelerate case detection, and develop essential new tools.

5. Theme: "Keeping the Pledge"

Even as the TB epidemic continues to worsen, donor commitments made in Okinawa, Washington and Amsterdam are still not being met for elements of the Global Plan to Stop TB, especially for research and development of new tools and for the highly successful Global Drug Facility. The theme and supporting messages will leverage the positive performance of the Stop TB Partnership and growing threat of TB/HIV and other factors to highlight the need for renewed commitment to the pledges "now more than ever".

6. Agenda

The Forum is two days, starting on the day before with a seminar and a Charity Concert:

- *Thursday 4 December* : Opportunities, constraints and recommendations for reaching the Stop TB targets in the top high TB-burden countries;
- *Friday 5 December* : Challenges and solutions in the Global Partnership to Stop TB through investment, implementation and research beyond 2005

Additional Activities:

- *Concert by A.R. Rahman*: Public charity concert and registration for the Partners Forum (3 Dec evening)
- *The Market-Place*: Each end of the day (17:00-18:30) Stop TB Partners display their posters/ activities and walk around to discuss enhanced collaboration
- *TB photo exhibit* in Indian Parliament in week leading up to Forum.
- *Private Medical Doctors*: A seminar targeting the Indian private medical community to get further involvement in Indian DOTS expansion programs.
- *Site-visits*: Saturday 6 December: optional site-visits arranged.

7. Invitees

- Total of maximum 300 invitees
- Ministerial Delegations 22 high TB-burden countries (HBC): 3 Delegates incl. Ministers Health and Finance To date 4 ministerial delegations have confirmed : DR Congo, Kenya, Myanmar and Philippines.
- High level representatives of Stop TB Partners: Dr J.W. Lee (DG/ WHO), Dr Wolfensohn (President/ WB), Mr George Soros (OSI), Dr Peter Piot (UNAIDS), Dr Carol Bellamy (UNICEF), UNDP, Ministerial Delegations of donor countries
- Stop TB organizational partners: head of the offices (at their own expense)
- Special Invitees: e.g. Mr Kofi A. Annan (UN SG), Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Mr Bill Gates, Gorbachev Foundation, Former President Nelson Mandela, Ms Graça Machel, Princess of Bhutan, Professor Richard Feachem (GFATM), Prof Amartya Sen, "high-level invitees" from various regions, patient groups, Experts from consultations, Countries reached targets (5-10)

8. Funding and Sponsoring

- The provisional budget of the Forum is roughly 500,000 US\$, based on detailed budgets from the professional Conference Organizer the detailed budget will be provided.
- The Forum is being cosponsored by Stop TB partners: Government of India, DFID, USAID, World Bank, OSI
- Side-events are organized and sponsored through Stop TB partners

9. Practical arrangements & Logistics

- A local advising committee (LAC) has held its first meeting on 20 June and offered strong support to all logistic arrangements, hotel-arrangements, social event, registration, participants care and local transport;
- A 2nd LAC meeting and a logistical meeting with Attitude will be held at the end of October 2003;
- All logistical arrangements: registration, hotel reservation, local transportation, flight reservation, etc. are being managed by Attitude (Mr Amit Saroj) – Professional Conference Organisers based in New Delhi.

10. Background papers

A series of key-background documents are being prepared:

Documents under development:

- *Stop TB Partnership Evaluation*—independent review of the partnership
- *2nd Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation*—Constraints and solutions to TB Control
- *Country progress Report*—outlining the progress in DOTS Expansion in the 22 high TB-burden countries

New Forum Materials:

- *Global Plan to Stop TB Progress*—progress report to the GPSTB '01-05
- *Draft Statement*—a consensus statement by all participating organizations, and specific pledges of support to countries
- *CD ROM Partners Directory/Profiles*—CD ROM with Partners directory, information about all Stop TB partners activities and contacts

11. Advocacy and communications

Objectives:

- Generate interest by global and national media in the Forum and the war on TB
- Utilize the Forum to create pressure for strengthened political commitment and financial support to Stop TB objectives
- Emphasize the need for funding to support *all* of the constituent elements of the Global Plan, ie. R&D for new TB drugs, diagnostics and vaccines, DOTS expansion, TB/HIV, MDR-TB, GDF
- Deepen understanding about the relationship between the Global Plan and GFATM
- Highlight successful national TB programmes as models of progress, innovative approaches and the benefits of investing in TB control
- Exploit the Forum to activate partners and country programmes in collaborative communications and advocacy activities

Activities:

- *Media strategy*: global pre-Forum e-communiqués briefings and onsite press conference
- *Campaign strategy*: including exhibition and pledge books, G8 parliamentarian visit, and individual/country awards;
- *Celebrities*: involvement of celebrities in the Forum
- *Electronic Discussion Forum*: key objectives will be discussed through web-based communications in the lead up to the Forum;
- *Special materials*: including flash movies, videos, Stop TB Image Library display