



# Stop TB Partnership

Co-ordinating Board, Osaka, 19-21 February 2002

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## Partners to Stop TB

*Criteria for selecting, classifying and accepting partners*

### 1. **Background and rationale**

With the rapid expansion of the Stop TB Partnership, supported by the recent Washington Commitment and operationalised by the Global Plan to Stop TB (2001 – 2005) the number of applicants expressing interest to join the partnership has increased dramatically. Currently there are approximately 260 partners registered. This is by itself a very encouraging sign as it shows that the Partnership meets the needs of the global and national stakeholders, as well as from the field.

The partnership started in 1998 with only very general and generic criteria. Thus the current partnership has a great diversity among its members. An inventory of the details of the current partners as per their respective strengths and advantages is being developed.

The Basic Framework for the Partnership defined “Partners” in broad and generic terms, indicating that criteria for acceptance are to be developed :

The Stop TB partnership is a network of international organizations, countries, financial donors from the public and private sectors, governmental or non-governmental organizations, other entities and individuals which have expressed their interest in its purpose and mission by notifying the Executive Secretary and are willing to be committed to short and long term measures to achieve them. The criteria for acceptance will be developed by the Secretariat and approved by the Board. The members of the Stop TB Partnership are called “the Partners”.

In order to safeguard the mission of the Partnership and give meaning to the membership, it is necessary to qualify the definition of Partners. This can be done according to geographical context and scope, and to the degree to which the goals and values of the applicant align with those from the Partnership, as reflected in verifiable actions. For this reason the term “Partners” needs to be revisited and be linked to specific intake/acceptance criteria.

### 2. **Partnership**

#### 2.1 *Definition of partner*

*A partner is either an individual or an entity (government / organisation) that declared with reason(s) and substantiation of the alignment of its goals and values with those from the Partnership and that has expressed interest to become part of the Stop TB Partnership*

The criteria to become a partner are closely related to the above-mentioned definition. All potential partners must declare during application any vested interests they may have in joining the Partnership, such as an interest in grants, consulting contracts, sales of anti-TB products etc.



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Applications to become a partner are reviewed using the following criteria:

1. the degree of compatibility of goals and values of the applicant with those of the Stop TB Partnership, as demonstrated by verifiable actions,
2. the degree of actual and/or potential contribution to the partnership,
3. the extent of stated and/or potential vested interests.

## 2.2 *Mechanism to join the Partnership*

New applicants must express and demonstrate their interest to become a partner.

The application and review process starts with the submission to the Executive Secretary of the STB Partnership of a written expression of interest and a signed statement of compliance with the goals and values of the Partnership. The application process will also become accessible as an on-line procedure.

- The **written expression of interest** is substantiated with documentation on the interests, aims and objectives of the applicant and by verifiable actions thereof.
- The submitted signed **compliance statement** (*text to be prepared*), confirms the full compliance of the applicant with the interests (including goals and values) of the STB Partnership. In case of an organisation, this statement must bear the official letterhead and the original authorised signature(s).
- **Vested interests** are declared through the submission of a signed form (*statement text to be prepared*).

### *Authority*

The Executive Secretary manages the application process and decides in this matter under the delegated authority of the Stop TB Co-ordinating Board.

### *Review*

The Executive Secretary will review the submitted documents, using the above mentioned criteria, and will decide, on behalf of the Co-ordinating Board, on the acceptance of the application within 2 weeks of the date of receipt of all documentation.

### *Decision*

The applicant is informed by the Executive Secretary on the outcome of the review that also further specifies the level and the degree of participation of the new partner.

### *Appeal*

In case of an appeal to this decision, the STB Co-ordinating Board's Working Committee will review the appeal and will make a final decision.

### *Final arrangements*

- Executive Secretary periodically informs the Co-ordinating Board.



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- The Co-ordinating Board or its Working Committee formally endorses the decisions by the Executive Secretary regarding the outcome of the application of new partners or decide on an appeal.
- Following the acceptance of the new partner, the appropriate components of the Partnership are informed, such as the respective regional- and national partnerships, working groups, database management and web-site.

### 3. *Diversity of Partnership*

#### 3.1 *Levels of participation, based on geography and geographic scope*

For the time being, the Stop TB Partnership Secretariat in the WHO is the gateway to and the administration of the Stop TB Partnership. The Executive Secretary, through the Secretariat, appraises new applications and may refer and/or share new applicants with other levels (for example regional national level partnerships) and/or specific components of the partnership (working groups, task forces etc.).

- Global Partnership (*Global*)  
This is organised as the Stop TB Partners Forum and is the strategic policy making structure for the Global Plan to Stop TB (via Co-ordinating Board, CB Working Committee and Secretariat)
- Regional Partnerships (*Regional*)<sup>1</sup>  
These partnerships are not yet operational in all regions. The WHO Regional Offices have crucial tasks in creating and maintaining them. Within a region, countries may wish to develop partnerships among themselves and including supra-national organisations & international NGO's that brings similar experiences and expertise together.
- National Partnerships (*National*)  
Guided by National DOTS Expansion Plans and under the stewardship of the government, all national level stakeholders bring their specific experiences and expertise together, and benefit from the participation of other international agencies and donors committed towards the goals of the National DOTS Expansion Plan.
- Local Partnerships (*Local*)  
As part of a National DOTS Expansion Plan and under the leadership of the National TB Programme, local stakeholders, beneficiaries and contributors are putting their ideas and initiatives together for greater DOTS expansion impact at the community level. These partnerships may have a specific focus on a specific part of the implementation of the National DOTS Expansion Plan.

<b>Level</b>	<b>Global</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>Local</b>
<i>Platform Partners</i>	<i>Partners Forum</i>	<i>Regional Task Force</i>	<i>National Interagency Co-ordinating Committee</i>	<i>NTP</i>
Global Partners				
Regional Partners				
National Partners				

<sup>1</sup> Based on the WHO regions: Africa, America, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, South East Asia, and the Western Pacific.



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Local Partners				
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Principal position	Secondary position	Tertiary position
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While some of these platforms are still to be established, the attachment of partners to a specific level will enhance the advantages to the partner and to the partnership.

The Global Partnership Forum will consist of partners that (can) make contributions at international level for the implementation of the Global Plan to Stop TB. Thus it avoids that the Global Forum will become too closely involved with issues that are better dealt with at another level.

### 3.2 Degrees of participation

#### Individual Partners

Individuals can join the global partnership in their personal capacity. Depending on the specific interest and/or contribution by the individuals to the partnership, their details may be shared with other levels and components of the partnership.

#### Organisational Partners

The relevance and degree of the contribution towards the principles and goals of the Partnership will determine the status of the organisational partner. This relevance must be clearly established in the application. Organisational partners can either be :

- Full Partners or
- Associate Partners

#### Full Partners

Organisations (governmental, NGO, professional and technical, charitable or commercial) can join as **full partners**, provided that it can be shown through verifiable actions that their goals and values align with those of the Partnership. Established and/or potential conflict of interest must also be declared.

#### Associate Partners

Organisations (governmental, NGO, professional and technical, charitable or commercial) that have not yet demonstrated their alignment with the Partnership's goals and values, can still be recognised as **associate-partners**. They benefit from communication links with the Partnership, including newsletters and on-line discussions. They can also access STB databases. However they do not participate in governance issues of the partnership, or serve on any of the Partnership's bodies, such as Co-ordinating Board, Working groups, Partners' Forum.

Participation Partners	Information	Access to databases	Partners Forum	Governing bodies
Individuals	Yes	yes	Invitation	invitation
Organisations				
Full partners	Yes	yes	Yes	yes
Associate partners	Yes	yes	Observer	no

### 4. Privileges of participation



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The partnership can only flourish as a result of the activities and inputs of its partners, supported by pro-active and responsive management by the Co-ordinating Board and the Secretariat. Partners are expected to contribute. Simple passive consumption of information, without giving something in return will eventually drain the partnership resources.

#### 4.1 What can the Partnership expect from the Partners?

Contributions to the Partnership can be in many different forms depending on the particular strengths of the respective partners. They include provision of data and feedback, new innovative ideas and sharing of information on best practices. Contributing financial or other resources to the Partnership will sustain its momentum. These resources can be as manpower (secondment, consultant input and time), as in kind contributions (drugs, medical implements, support missions and product development for a specific interventions), and as strategic inputs like marketing, distribution channels, media spots, development of guidelines and influential connections to power-brokers.

Examples of contributions from partners to the implementation of the Global Plan to stop TB are:

Technical	Resources	Advocacy
Feed back from the field	Manpower	Media spots
Research results	In kind materials / drugs	Marketing strategy
Good practices	Consultant support	Advertising design
Distribution channels		
General	Financial	
Commitment statements	Country support	
Connections/Networking	Partnership support	
	Support to technical agencies	

#### 4.2 What can the Partners expect from the Partnership?

Partners can, in return, enjoy the following benefits:

- *updated Information* on for example :
  - Clinical Tuberculosis
  - TB / HIV
  - TB Treatment & Control
  - DOTS and DOTS Expansion
  - Global TB Drug Facility (GDF)
  - Global Plan and Forum
  - Stop TB Partnership developments
- *support and/or referral* thereof from other Partners on, for example:
  - Technical advice
  - Logistical and financial assistance
  - GDF
- *participation* in the global network
  - To share experiences and obtain feed back
- *profile* as a committed individual and/or organisation.



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## 5. *Conclusions and Recommendation*

The Stop TB Partnership created great interest among a wide variety of interested parties. Given the large number of current partners and the noted interest from many others to become partners, the membership rules (including the application & review mechanism and classification) for the partnership need to be clarified.

The Secretariat herewith requests the endorsement by the Stop TB Co-ordinating Board of this document as the official membership policy of the Stop TB Partnership.

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