

2nd Stop TB Partners' Forum

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

Country progress: Towards a TB-free future: 25 months to reach the global TB targets

1. Background on the Global 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 mobilisation 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).

3. Proposed Dates: 4-5 December 2003

A proposed timing for the 2nd Stop TB Partners' Forum would be in the first week of December (or last week of November) during the Parliament sessions.

4. Objectives and Expected Outcomes

Objectives

- Report on progress in DOTS Expansion since the 1st Stop TB Partners' Forum, Washington, USA;
- Further accelerate efforts to address country constraints, needs and proposed solutions to reach the TB targets;
- Strengthen non-governmental (private and civil sectors) support to 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).

Expected Outcomes

- Consensus on the way forward to reaching the global TB targets "New Delhi Pledges"
- Pledges of high-level political commitment and operational support from partners to presented plans of the top 4 HB countries;
- Reinforced commitment from private sector to reach the TB targets;
- Strengthen partnership activities to Stop TB

5. Agenda

- The Forum is two days, starting with a registration reception on evening
- Day 1: Opportunities & commitments for reaching the Stop TB targets in the top 4 high TB-burden countries (and other 22 HBC);
- Day 2: Challenges and solutions in reaching the global TB targets
- Market-Place: Each end of the day (5:00-6:30hr) a “market-place” is organized where all Stop TB Partners can display their posters/ activities

6. Focus

- The Forum will focus on country progress in expanding DOTS, and highlight the importance of the non-governmental (private and civil sectors).

7. Invitees

- Total of maximum 300 invitees
- Ministerial Delegations of 22 high TB-burden countries (HBC), 3 Delegates including Ministers of Health, Finance
- Ministerial Delegations of donor countries and high level representatives of Stop TB Partners (DG/WHO, WB President, UN SG, Bill Gates, George Soros)
- Stop TB organizational partners, head of the offices (at own expense)

8. Funding and Sponsoring

- The Forum is being cosponsored by the Stop TB partners (hosting the Forum), and the overall budget is roughly 500,000 US\$ (but needs to be specified based on exact estimates from India);
- Side-events are organized and sponsored through Stop TB partners

9. Practical arrangements & Logistics

- A local organizing committee will be formed to take charge of all logistical arrangements, hotel-arrangements, social event, registration, participants care and local transport

10. Background papers

A series of key-background documents are being prepared:

- *Reaching the Global TB Targets*—outlining the broad and specific constraints and solutions to achieve the Global TB targets
- *Country progress towards a TB-free future*—outlining the progress in DOTS Expansion in the 22 high TB-burden countries since Amsterdam Declaration, and what needs to be done to reach Targets 2005
- *Draft New Delhi Pledges*—a consensus statement by all participating organizations
- *TB & HIV*—Report describing the status of TB in people living with HIV, actions, challenges and obstacles to address these overlapping epidemics

11. Advocacy and communications

- *Media strategy*: pre-press work two months ahead and media-conference during Forum
- *Communications Strategy*: Various products are under preparation (e.g. press-kit, op-ed pieces, web-based information, video material)
- *Award*: Offer an award to the 10 countries that most recently have reached the Stop TB Targets.
- *Celebrities*: involvement of celebrities in the Forum
- *Pledge book*: each of the HBC will circulate from April onwards a pledge-book within the country to officials, celebrities and patients. Elements of these will be displayed as Exhibition