

Commenter: Hope Ferdowsian

From: Hope Ferdowsian [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 3:13 PM

To: Pandemic Fund Consultations <pandemic_fund_consultations@worldbank.org>

Subject: Comments: Public Consultation on the Pandemic Fund's Draft Medium-term Strategic Plan

Re: The Pandemic Fund's Draft Medium-term Strategic Plan

To the Pandemic Fund's Governing Board and Other Stakeholders,

Thank you for your ongoing attention to pandemic prevention and preparedness and for the opportunity to provide public comment on a preliminary draft of the Pandemic Fund Medium-term Strategic Plan.

As other members of the medical and public health community and I submitted in an open letter to Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization, and Members of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, pandemic prevention and preparedness must focus on equity and primary prevention, including a socially and ecologically just One Health approach that advances the interdependent health and wellbeing of humans, other animals, and our shared environments and ecosystems.

We therefore appreciate the Pandemic Fund's Draft Medium-term Strategic Plan's attention to One Health, equity, and prevention, as well as its consideration of potential drivers of pandemics including climate change, industrial animal farming, antimicrobial resistance, and environmental degradation (Section 1.1). Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases with pandemic potential, such as avian influenza, emphasize the importance of addressing these and other drivers of pandemics in an urgent and diligent manner.

The promotion of health equity and other programmatic themes identified in the preliminary draft (Sections 2.1 and 2.4) will require significant attention to evidence-based supply and demand failures that have historically increased the risk for outbreaks and pandemics. An emphasis on surveillance, absent attention to deep primary prevention, is an insufficient prevention strategy. Therefore, the five-year ambition requires an additional outcome measure that addresses known drivers of pandemics (Section 1.5, Figure 2). As the Governing Board develops a separate Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (Sections 1.5, 6.4, and 7), these evidentiary foundations will be essential to its success.

In this vein, the Pandemic Fund is well-positioned to augment international and local efforts to curb illicit trade and trafficking as well as other supply-side factors that contribute to pandemic risk, such as industrialized animal farming, extractive industry

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activities, and other high-risk practices that promote zoonotic spillover. Support for just transitions and more sustainable and ethically defensible investment and divestment strategies, including in food and agricultural systems, will be essential. Similarly, the Pandemic Fund could and should address demand-side factors such as the inappropriate use of antimicrobials in agriculture through support for policies and practices that deter antimicrobial misuse.

Attention to the above matters, supported by science, could provide evidence-based guidance to the Governing Board and other stakeholders to ensure that the stated objectives of meaningful resource allocation; strengthened cooperation, coordination, and collaboration; innovative investments; and good governance are met.

Thank you for your ongoing attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,

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