



RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD ON THE GOVERNANCE AND SCOPE OF THE FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARY FUND FOR PANDEMIC PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

September 2, 2022

The [Coalition for Preventing Pandemics at the Source](#) applauds the creation of the Financial Intermediary Fund for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response. We appreciated the opportunity to participate recently in two official CSO consultations. Next week, board members of this new FIF will be asked to endorse the governance framework and operations manual. We are writing today to express our concerns and share some practical recommendations based on our analysis of the latest [proposal](#) made available during consultations by the interim secretariat.

Governance

We welcome the proposal to reserve two seats specifically for LIC/LMIC donors. In addition, there should be an equal number of representatives from high-income countries and from low- and middle-income countries across the 20 donor and non-donor voting seats to ensure a balance of perspectives and interests.

We also welcome the proposal to assign two voting seats to CSOs. However, the board should specifically, and in addition, ensure participation by representatives of Indigenous Peoples and affected communities in at least one of these voting seats, or add another seat, to accommodate such representation. Over time, ideally this representation would also increase helping to ensure credibility, and relevance and hence effectiveness of the FIF.

Scope

The expected scope of FIF investments still excludes upstream, **primary prevention** measures focused on reducing the risk of pathogen spillover (surveillance is mentioned, and is important, but this, by definition, is not primary prevention). This is despite recent analysis which shows that these measures represent the [most cost-effective](#) and equitable approaches to pandemic prevention and preparedness. Focusing only on post-outbreak actions perpetuates a siloed approach (which the FIF has a stated aim of avoiding) and accepts the deaths of mostly black, Indigenous and people of color at the front lines of disease emergence and response. **We urge the board to explicitly include primary prevention of emerging zoonotic infectious diseases through spillover prevention in the scope of actions to be supported by the FIF.**



We also encourage you to revise the operational design to enable funds to be disbursed directly to governments and trusted partners implementing actions on the ground without multiple layers of decision making and overheads. Those partners include the governments of low and middle-income countries as well as non-profit organizations with relevant expertise and capacity.

We welcome the proposal for country-led proposal development. However, governments must be mandated to develop proposals in partnership with civil society consortia with participation from organizations representing Indigenous, marginalized, and stigmatized communities.

Without addressing these flaws, the FIF risks failure by taking an approach too narrow to succeed, lacking in innovation and scalability, and excluding vital expertise. If the recommendation above are met, we stand ready to mobilize support for this vitally important effort through the combined capacity of our nineteen member organizations, thousands of staff, and our wider alliances with hundreds of other institutions.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'N. Sizer'.

Nigel Sizer Ph.D.

Executive Director

Preventing Pandemics at the Source

www.preventingfuturepandemics.org