

January 31, 2017

Honorable Minister,

It is my honor to address you on the occasion of presenting the progress report on the key actions undertaken during the past six months as part of my responsibilities as Global Fund Alternate Board Member for the Latin American and Caribbean constituency for the period 2015 -2017.

Beyond my duties as Alternate Board member, I have worked actively as an elected Ethic and Governance Committee (ECG) member. During the past semester I attended the ECG Second meeting October 12-14, 2016, Geneva, Switzerland. Relevant inputs and substantial contributions were made on the ECG Work Plan 2016-2018 with special emphasis in the areas of Strengthening of Global Fund Governance, Optimizing Board and Committees Leadership and Addressing Risk Management at all levels. The LAC Constituency nominated Dereck Springer, CFP-LAC as Governance Focal Point; I am pleased to report his significant support to the revision of the Constituency Funding Policy.

In addition, LAC Constituency contributed with technical and managerial presence and a strong voice to governance issues at Board level through the development of a Joint position paper in collaboration with Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA), Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR), and South East of Asia (SEA). In the same way, we could jointly identify and incorporate this innovative mechanism to forge a strategic interregional alliance in order to assess the management of transition funding at country level and the potential threat that this implies to Key population; as well as highlighting the need of basing transition on a core set of principles, such as transparency and predictability, good practice, human rights and flexibility. Finally, we made specific recommendation to minimize their negative impact. This document has been a relevant input for negotiations during the bilateral meeting with donor's constituencies previous to the Thirty-six Board as well as for the development of the joint constituencies' statement (among LAC, EMR, EECA, Developed NGOs countries and Developing NGOs countries and Communities) on the "Comprehensive Funding Policy and Grant Making Process" as a common tool for advocacy during the 36th Board Meeting.

Concerning the methods of work for LA Representation, I would like to recognize the ongoing support received from the Ministry of Health in Argentina, both in the provision of staff, infrastructure and equipment, as well as the full backing of the local working group formed by the Communication Team of the STD/AIDS Direction from the Ministry of Health in Argentina and Latin America Communication Focal point for the GF. The Latin American local support group for the Board Alternate Member is integrated by additional members from NGO Networks, Civil Society, and technical partners such as PAHO/WHO and UNAIDS.

The Caribbean subgroup continues to be supported through the PANCAP/CARICOM platform and there is a fluid and constant communication and consultation among the two sets of countries. PANCAP/CARICOM is also the very capable administrator of the funds received to support the LAC operations and PAHO /WHO provides administrative support to the Latin America representative. The Global Fund made available US\$100,000 to the LAC Constituency for year 2016. The total expenditure as of November 2016 is US\$95,601.

With reference to the LAC Constituency outreach efforts, I would like to mention the availability of Board Alternate Member quarterly reports; the regular briefings to Permanent

Missions of LAC Member states based in Geneva; and regular meetings with LAC Regional Manager and country teams responsible for country and regional grants in order to improve relationships between GF Secretariat and LAC countries.

With regards to the Funding Model implementation; I am pleased to note that we advocated successfully for the transition extension in Jamaica, through a transition readiness assessment process conducted in collaboration with UNAIDS/Curatio, to move towards the development of a comprehensive country transition plan. In addition, the REDLACTRANS Regional proposal was approved. The letters with funds assigned by country were sent in December. The information related to the Global Fund LAC allocations for the period 2017-2019 is attached.

The Global Fund Implementers Group Annual Retreat was carried out from September 21-23, 2016, representatives of each of the ten constituencies (the “Implementers Group”) met in Nairobi to review challenges and opportunities, and identify common objectives and areas of future cooperation. The retreat advanced work to develop a three-year costed road-map for the period 2017-2019 that defines the vision, strategic direction, priority areas and activities through which the Implementers Group can support and guide the Secretariat in operationalizing its ambitious new strategy for 2017-2022. The following LAC Delegation members attended the workshop: Mr. Javier Luis Hourcade Bellocq (Argentina), Latin America CSO Member; Dr. Aurelio Nuñez (Panama), RCM EMMIE Chair; and Ms. M. Joan Didier (Saint Lucia), OECS RCM Representative.

The PAHO/Global Fund joint session took place within the framework of the PAHO /WHO Directing Council on September 29th, 2016, the Hon. Minister Nicholas Steele participated in the 5th Replenishment Conference in Montreal, Canada where donors including the private sector and implementing countries pledged US\$12.9 billion to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for the next three years. Despite a successful replenishment current resources are not enough to achieve the Planned Targets at Global level and sustain the achievements related to diseases elimination in the LAC Region.

Previous to the Thirty-Sixth Board meeting, the Implementers Group and the LAC Delegation held preparatory meetings on November 14 and 15, respectively in Montreux, Switzerland, in order to review key issues and agree on common positions about the Comprehensive Funding Policy Amendment, the Sources and uses of funds for the 2017-2019 Allocation Period, the Catalytic investments; the Sustainability and Transition and other agenda items of shared interest. Among them were the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) Framework 2017-2022 and CCMs matters.

Finally, the LAC delegation attending the Thirty-Sixth Board Meeting on November 16-17, 2015, in Montreux, Switzerland, was composed by Hon. Nickolas Steele, Minister of Health Grenada and Board Member, and myself as Alternate Board Member; Mr. Dereck Springer, Communication Focal Point for the Caribbean; Mr. Javier Luis Hourcade Bellocq (Argentina), Latin America CSO Member; Mr. Sergio López (Paraguay), Alternate Latin America; Mr. Jumoek Patrick (Jamaica), Alternate Caribbean; Ms. Jessie Coto, Alternate Delegate (Cuba); Dr. Aurelio Nuñez (Panama), RCM EMMIE Chair; Dr. Ana Isabel Nieto (El Salvador), TCGH Chair; Ms. M. Joan Didier (Saint Lucia), OECS RCM Representative.

The Honorable Nickolas Steele made opening remarks and comments on Executive Director’s Report in order to call for an exceptional technical and financial effort to ensure sustainable outcomes in LAC and all countries in transition.



The Board most relevant decision were the Approval of the Amended and Restated Comprehensive Funding Policy as well as the Sources and Uses of Funds for the 2017-2019 Allocation Period and the Catalytic Investments for the 2017-2019 Allocation Period. It is relevant to mention that LAC delegation had an active role and strong voice on the proposed final versions for Board approval through the joint constituencies' statement on the "Comprehensive Funding Policy and Grant Making Process" in order to advocate for more and smarter spending of resources.

Other relevant decisions were: a) Continuing Resource Mobilization Efforts throughout the Replenishment Cycle; b) Executive Director Selection Process; c) Corporate Work Plan and Budget Narrative 2017 and the 2017 Operating Expenses Budget; d) Performance Targets for the 2017-2022 Strategic Key Performance Indicator Framework; e) Location of the 37th Board Meeting.

Concerning the KPI Framework 2017-2022, LAC constituency proposed the establishment of a working advisory group to evaluate the targets and their performance by 2016 "mid-term review", in order to provide clear recommendation to the Board. It is important to highlight that this proposal was included in the final decision point. After the Board, nominations to establish the 10-people advisory group were opened and Mrs. Jarrett from Jamaica was selected as one of the members. The advisory group will provide recommendations on KPI targets ahead of the Board Retreat planned to take place on March 29-31, 2017.

Photograph of LAC delegation is attached. The monthly newsletter in Spanish is being published and you can subscribe to it as well as visit the website www.lacfondomundial.org, as well as use communication channel through Facebook facebook.com/lacfondomundial.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any enquiry or further information; I am opened to your guidance, proposals, suggestions for improvement and consultations through my personal e-mail rosesperiago@hotmail.com and at the institutional e-mail grupolafm@gmail.com.

I take this opportunity to wish you, your families and all your co-citizens a Prosperous, Happy and Healthy 2017.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mirta Roses Periago
Global Fund Alternate Board Member
Latin America and the Caribbean Representation