

**DECISION**

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**ED.01.15/DEC.01:** The Board approves the Terms of Reference of the Accelerated Funding Panel attached as Annex 1 to ED.01.15/DOC.01.

(signed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Bellamy  
Chair

**FOR DECISION**

**ED.01.15/DOC.01: TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ACCELERATED FUNDING PANEL**

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**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this paper is to seek a decision of the Board approving the terms of reference of the Accelerated Funding Panel.

**2. REQUESTED DECISION**

The Board is requested to approve the following decision:

*ED.01.15/DEC.01: The Board approves the Terms of Reference of the Accelerated Funding Panel attached as Annex 1 to ED.01.15/DOC.01.*

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 At the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Board on 17-18 November 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland, the Board took the following decisions approving the launch of the Accelerated Funding Mechanism:

**BM.01/DEC.06:** The Board:

- a. welcomes the Secretariat's proposal of an Accelerated Funding Mechanism ("AFM") to provide an efficient and effective way for the global community to provide fast and flexible support to projects responding to the recent escalation in violent extremism worldwide and its current manifestations;
- b. recognizes that, while maintaining appropriately robust standards of transparency and accountability, the AFM described in Section 4, Part 3 of the Proposal for the Funding Model (BM.01/DOC.05) (version 2) will support projects that may necessarily adapt and evolve in the current, rapidly changing environment;
- c. notes that the viability of the AFM will depend on recognition of the need for flexibility and pragmatism in funding and associated reporting requirements by potential donors;
- d. in light of the above, requests that potential donors agree to adjust their requirements on monitoring and evaluation in their contribution agreements relating to the AFM;
- e. approves in principle the AFM, including its thematic and geographical priorities, structures and processes, for an initial period of two years once launched;
- f. requests the Chair (to be appointed) to consult Board Members regarding their interest in participating in the Accelerated Funding Panel ("AFP") and present a recommendation on the membership of the AFP to the Board for approval; and

- g. authorizes the Executive Director (to be appointed) to:
  - i. launch the AFM and oversee its operationalization by the Secretariat as soon as practicable, subject to the further Board decision on the proposed funding and operating expenses budget for the AFM proposed in BM.01/DOC.07; and
  - ii. provide the Board with a recommendation concerning the potential continuation of the AFM after the initial period of two years, based on an evaluation of its value and assessment of its functioning.

**BM.01/DEC.11:** The Board:

- a. notes that dedicated resources will be required to implement the proposed Accelerated Funding Mechanism (“AFM”), including for operating expenses related directly to the AFM, as set out in Part 2 of BM.01/DOC.07;
- b. directs the Executive Director (to be appointed) to launch the AFM and to seek to secure no less than USD 3.5 million for the AFM and to inform the Board as soon as such funds are secured; and
- c. approves, effective subject to paragraph b. above, an operating expenses budget for the AFM of up to USD 708,982 for the period of 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015, as presented in Part 3 of BM.01/DOC.07.

3.2 The Bylaws of GCERF state in Article 2.12 that the Board may establish such sub-committees of the Board, working groups and task teams as it deems appropriate to carry on the work of the Board, pursuant to terms of reference approved by the Board that include the process for appointment of members and the sub-committee’s authority.

3.3 The document Proposal for the Funding Model (BM.01/DOC.05) (version 2) sets out the basic structure of the Accelerated Funding Panel, including its membership and its purpose. The Board document states that the Board delegates grant decision-making authority for the AFM to the AFP.

3.4 The proposed Terms of Reference in Annex 1 to this document, which the Board is being requested to approve by no objection, provides the details on the appointment of AFP members (including its chair), the authority of the AFP and some basic rules of functioning.

3.5 Following approval of the Terms of Reference, the Chair will propose the AFP membership to the Board for approval.

## **Annex 1**

### **ACCELERATED FUNDING PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **A. PURPOSE**

As a component of the Accelerated Funding Mechanism (“AFM”) approved by the Governing Board of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (the “Board”) at its 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting,<sup>1</sup> the Board delegated to the Accelerated Funding Panel (“AFP”) the authority for making funding decisions under the AFM.

#### **B. MEMBERSHIP**

**1. Size and Composition.** The AFP shall consist of seven (7) members representing the following Board constituencies:

- a. three (3) from donor countries;
- b. two (2) from beneficiary countries;
- c. one (1) from either civil society or policy, think and do tanks; and
- d. one (1) from either foundations or private sector.

AFP members may be Board Members, Alternate Board Members, or other members of the above-noted constituencies.

**2. Appointment of Members.** The Board Chair shall consult the Board to seek nominations for members of the AFP. The Board Chair shall propose the AFP membership to the Board for approval, using any appropriate decision-making mode including the no objection email process outlined in Article 2.9a of the Bylaws.

**3. Membership Term.** AFP members, including its Chair, shall serve for up to two (2) years and are eligible for appointment for a second term of up to two (2) years. AFP members may resign from the AFP at any time before the end of their term by informing the Chair of the AFP in writing. AFP members are expected to continue to serve on the AFP until such time as a replacement is appointed.

**4. Chair.** The AFP, at its first meeting of any term, shall elect a Chair from among its membership.

**5. Vacancies.** A vacancy in the AFP resulting from death, resignation, disqualification or other reason, shall be filled in the same manner in which the original holder of that office or

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<sup>1</sup>BM.01/DEC.06 and BM.01/DEC.11.

position was appointed or selected. Individuals selected or appointed to fill vacant positions shall hold such positions for the unexpired term of their predecessor.

**6. Assessment.** Each AFP member shall remain engaged and diligent in the performance of his/her responsibilities. Accordingly, each individual serving in such a role shall be subject to an assessment by the AFP Chair. If such assessments determine that the individual has not fulfilled his/her responsibilities, including, without limitation, failing to attend meetings and participate in discussions, the AFP Chair may request the relevant constituency to put forward a permanent replacement to complete the individual's term or remove the constituency from the AFP and seek a replacement for the vacant AFP seat in accordance with these terms of reference.

### **C. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The AFP has the following roles and responsibilities:

1. overseeing the administration of the AFM;
2. with delegated authority from the Board, making funding decisions under the AFM; and
3. undertaking any other responsibility or task delegated to it by a Board decision.

### **D. MEETINGS**

1. **Frequency.** The AFP shall meet as required to implement the AFM in a timely and efficient manner.
2. **Modes.** AFP meetings shall generally be held by audio-conference. At the discretion of the AFP Chair, they may be held face-to-face or by video conference or any other electronic communication medium that allows a member to follow and contribute to meeting discussions as they occur in real time. The AFP Chair shall decide on the medium used for each meeting.
3. **Notice.** Notice of AFP meetings shall be provided at least 21 calendar days prior to the start of the meeting.
4. **Quorum.** The AFP may conduct business only when its Chair and a majority of AFP members are present.
5. **Secretariat Attendance.** The Executive Director shall be invited to attend meetings of the AFP, unless the AFP Chair decides otherwise. Attendance by other Secretariat members shall be decided by the Executive Director, in consultation with AFP Chair.

**6. Delivery of Meeting Materials.** The Secretariat shall distribute meeting materials to ensure receipt by AFP members at least 14 calendar days in advance of the start of the meeting.

**E. DECISION-MAKING PROCESS**

**1. Secretariat Recommendation.** The Secretariat shall make funding recommendations to the AFP on applications under the AFM, based on an assessment of each application's strategic focus, technical merit and contextual considerations that may impact potential grant performance.

**2. AFP Consideration.** When considering an application, the AFP should place emphasis on the merits and potential impact of applications, in light of the risk assessment made and reflected in the recommendation of the Secretariat.

**3. AFP Decision.** The AFP may choose to approve an application, or to do so subject to specific reservations or conditions. A decision not to fund a proposal will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting, with an indication of whether the applicant is encouraged to re-apply.

**4. Decision by Consensus or Voting.** The AFP Chair shall use best efforts to ensure that the AFP reaches all decisions by consensus. If all practical efforts have not led to consensus within the time allotted in the meeting agenda, the Chair, or any other voting member, seconded by another member, may call for a vote.

**F. REPORTING TO THE BOARD**

The AFP Chair shall regularly report to the Board on the activities and decisions of the AFP.

**G. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**1. Covered Individuals.** AFP members are subject to and must abide by the requirements of the Policy on Ethics and Conflicts of Interest approved by the Board. In particular, AFP members may not participate in the review of a funding request in which they had any participation in its development.

**2. Disclosure.** AFP members shall uphold the integrity of the GCERF. AFP members shall disclose all actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest to the AFP Chair and recuse themselves from review of particular funding requests or other AFP work.

**H. OPERATIONAL COSTS**

The costs of attendance at face-to-face AFP meetings for beneficiary country members may be requested and paid for by the Secretariat's approved operating expenses budget.

**I. AMENDMENT**

This document may be amended from time to time upon approval by the Board.