

## **Re-examining the Roles and Responsibilities of Stop TB Working Groups: Description of the Process**

### **Introduction**

It has been nearly five years since the launching of the Stop TB Initiative in November 1998 and three years since the Amsterdam conference, the first major Stop TB Partnership activity, in March 2000. Since the partnership's inception, a number of formative activities have taken priority for the secretariat. Considerable attention also has been paid to ensuring that the secretariat is appropriately organized to ensure efficient and effective operations and support for the Partnership. To this end, within the secretariat three teams have been developed, a Partnership team, a communications and advocacy team, and a team operating the Global Drug Facility. Now it is time to turn attention to the components through which much of the work of the Partnership is being accomplished, the working groups.

As you may know, the working groups were not developed as part of a logical, thoughtful, prospective process. Rather, they were areas of existing activities that were co-opted into the Partnership. By-and-large the working groups do, however, cover the main areas of tuberculosis control, both as related to operations/implementation and to research and development. To this point, however, not a lot of thought has been put into the structure and function of the working groups and their activities and ways of operating have varied substantially.

### **Objective**

The objective of the re-examination of the roles and responsibilities of the working groups is to enable the groups to function in a more efficient and effective manner in support of reaching the global targets for tuberculosis control. The underlying principles that are being applied are: 1) the goals of the working groups should be facilitated by the Partnership as a whole. Simply put, being a part of the Partnership should enable achievements, in the area of activity represented by the working groups, beyond what could be accomplished by the individuals in the group working alone or working as a group but not part of a partnership. 2) The working groups' activities should benefit the Partnership as a whole.

### **Approach**

The working group terms of reference and work plans have been reviewed. Individual discussions have been held with the working group secretariat focal points and with the Partnership secretariat. The information obtained from this process was incorporated into a draft paper, reviewed by the working group secretariat focal points, and the draft revised to serve as the focus of a meeting of the working group chairs in Brasilia on April 5. A status report will be given to the Coordinating Board at the Brasilia meeting. Because the chairs meeting cannot take place until the day after the Coordinating Board meeting, a final report with recommendations will not be presented until the October Board meeting.