



GLOBAL PUBLIC INVESTMENT FOR EQUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

POLICY ENGAGEMENT NOTE by the Expert Working Group on GPI

The Need

More and more influential voices and groups have begun calling for a paradigm shift in the way we finance our global public needs: from [IMF Managing Director](#) Kristalina Georgieva to the [G20 High Level Independent Panel](#) on financing the Global Commons for Pandemic Preparedness and Response to the [Finance in Common](#) summit of public development banks and recent calls for a new [Pandemic Treaty](#), all have outlined the need for a new approach to international public finance. However, without a more general and organised framework for raising greater quantities and better distributing public money internationally the idea of sustainable development is little more than an aspiration.

The proposal

Global Public Investment moves us beyond a system where we pay for these things via limited, fragmented and often bilateral (even private) assistance to a system based upon *sustained co-responsibility*. Rich and poor countries would work together via intermittent, high-level priority-setting meetings and more regular technical follow up. All countries would contribute on a fractional, fair and ongoing or committed basis, with all having a say in how those monies were allocated. Some of the monies would be allocated to local investments with a wider (global) public return, others would flow into regional and multilateral initiatives. By bringing more countries to the table as contributors and decision-makers alike, GPI would not only raise more money, it would ensure that those funds went to where they could make the most difference.

How would Global Public Investment work

Global Public Investment builds upon some of the most important lessons we have learned about international financing in recent decades and takes inspiration from ground-breaking international institutions such as the Global Fund and Gavi. These lessons are encapsulated in the four pillars which define how Global Public Investment operates:

- 1. Universal Contributions.** Global Public Investment moves us beyond the current international order of “donor” and “recipient” countries. **Global Public Investment means all countries contributing, according to their ability, and all countries receiving according to their needs.**
- 2. Ongoing Commitments.** Global Public Investment moves us away from the assumption that countries “graduate” after achieving a relatively low level of income per capita and thereafter should receive no further concessional international finance. It is more akin to a global micro-tax for essential items. **Global Public Investment means an *ongoing* commitment to investing in public returns.**
- 3. Co-Responsibility.** In order to ensure (1) and (2) Global Public Investment moves us away from the entrenched (and for poor countries) unjust power relations and the often-unwanted burden of responsibility (for rich countries). **Global Public Investment means a more democratic and accountable approach to the way that international public finance is governed.**
- 4. Co-Creation.** Global Public Investment moves us beyond a fixed and ready-made financing process into a more organic and dynamic process where rich and poor countries co-design, consult and co-produce impactful solutions relevant to their needs locally as well as globally. **Global Public Investment truly means that *all* contribute, *all* benefit and *all* have a say.**

These four pillars – the “four Cs” of universal contributions, ongoing commitments, co-responsibility and co-creation – offer a blueprint for international public finance in the twenty-first century.

What needs to be done?

To capitalise on the growing momentum and support for GPI from government agencies, multilateral organisations, and civil society organisations, international political will now need to be built at the highest levels of government. In particular, leaders of the EU, AU, the G-7 and G-20 nations this year need to agree upon a comprehensive list of feasible steps towards implementing GPI as well as to consider how the principles of GPI can already be to be used to address existing problems, particularly the need to secure sufficient vaccines globally to tackle Covid-19.

Global Public Investment is promoted by a global multi-stakeholder group: www.globalpublicinvestment.org

Contact:

The Secretariat, C/o Equal International