



Independent observer
of the Global Fund

SANDS WILL BRING A STRONGER FOCUS ON ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE DISEASES, EDITOR OF THE LANCET SAYS

Peter Sands “looks likely to re-engineer the Global Fund to take more seriously the economic aspects of infectious disease threats,” editor Richard Horton writes in *The Lancet*. The commentary appeared on 25 November.

Peter Sands was recently [selected](#) by the Board to be the next executive director of the Global Fund.

“For several years [Sands] has built a reputation as a thoughtful advocate for greater attention to the economic costs of infectious diseases,” Horton writes. “As a former banker, he speaks directly – and with considerable credibility – to the business community about the economic impact of unexpected infectious disease shocks.”

Horton writes that the centrality of infectious disease preparedness to economic security – and, therefore, to social development and political stability – has been widely neglected by the global health community. “Sands intends to replace that complacency with a commitment to change the terms of engagement with countries and international institutions,” Horton says.

We recommend that readers view the full commentary (link to *The Lancet* website [here](#); download PDF file [here](#)). Peter Sands is expected to take up his position as executive director in mid-March 2018.

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