

Note for the Record

PMNCH Executive Committee (EC) Meeting

6 December, 2013 – Telephone Call

Present: Elizabeth Mason, WHO (EM); Jennifer Goosen, Canada (JG); Francesco Aureli, (FA); José Miguel Belizán, Institute of Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy (JB); Craig Friderichs, GSM Association (CF); Nicole Klingen, World Bank (NK); Rafael Cortez, World Bank (RC); Hamid Rashwan, FIGO (SA); Ms Magda Robert, Office of Mrs Graça Machel (MR).

PMNCH Secretariat: Carole Presern (CP), Kadi Toure (KT), Nebojsa Novcic (NN) and Abir Shady (AS).

Apologies: Anuradha Gupta (Government of India); and Flavia Bustreo (WHO).

AGENDA

Chair: Elizabeth Mason in absence of Flavia Bustreo and Anuradha Gupta

- ITEM 1 – Review of NfR of previous meeting
- ITEM 2 – Financing and governance:
 - Virtual Board Retreat, 11-12 December 2013: Logistics and Contents
 - Partners Forum: Organizing Committee, its membership and progress to-date
- ITEM 3 – Outline of PMNCH Draft 2014 Workplan
- ITEM 4 – Update on RMNCH Harmonization Working Group
- ITEM 5 – Draft PMNCH Adolescents Strategy: PMNCH Role
- ITEM 6 – AOB

1. Review and approval of NfR from the EC call on 4 November, 2013

Note for the record was approved.

2. Financing and governance

- Virtual Board Retreat, 11-12 December 2013: Logistics and Contents
- Partners Forum: Organizing Committee, its membership and progress to-date

EC members condolences and respects were extended to Mrs Machel for the sad loss of Nelson Mandela. MR spoke on behalf of Mrs Machel indicating appreciation for the heartfelt condolences of the EC and ensured that all messages will be delivered to Mrs Machel.

In view of the sad circumstances Mrs Machel is going through, it will not be possible for her to join the Virtual Board Retreat. Therefore, the EC decided to have one working session of the Board on 12 December to move forward specific area that needs the Board's attention.

Also, it has been decided that the agenda would then be reduced to cover most urgent items, namely: 2014 workplan, post-2015 development agenda, RMNCH harmonization working group and the partners forum.

It has been agreed that the next Board meeting would take place in Johannesburg right after the partners forum on 2 July.

CP updated the EC on the current status of preparations for the Partners Forum. A Steering Committee (SC) has been formed, including all co-hosts. The SC has the role to oversee preparation for the Forum and to ensure that the event is a success. Three other subcommittees have been established, one concerned with the programme, the second is an advocacy subcommittee and a third one on logistics and financial aspects of the event.

The Forum is one of the agenda items of the Virtual Board Working Session, which will provide more guidance to the Secretariat while preparing for this important event.

3. Outline of PMNCH Draft 2014 Workplan

NN presented the outline of PMNCH draft 2014 Workplan, referring to the criteria which has been previously approved by the EC to include/exclude projects in 2014 Workplan. NN emphasized that the 2014 Workplan ensures PMNCH partner-centric approach, involving partners and ensuring a continuity of 2013 Workplan on priority areas in addition to the core functions.

The EC commended the Secretariat for the work done in preparation of the outline document, especially with the different scenarios under PMNCH current financial situation.

CP pointed out the fact that while accountability is still a priority area for PMNCH, however, it is anticipated that the 2014 report on RMNCH commitments will not be done at the same depth of previous reports. This is basically due to the fact that PMNCH will not be receiving any further funding from COIA, which was the case in the last years.

4. Update on RMNCH Harmonization Working Group

CP indicated that the RMNCH Harmonization Working Group met several times to discuss the group's continuity and to revisit the TORs to ensure that roles of the Working Group and the RMNCH Steering Committee are complementary.

EC members will consult with their constituencies for further comments on this issue, which will then be relayed to the Secretariat in preparation for discussions on this agenda item during the Virtual Board Working Session.

5. PMNCH Draft Adolescents Strategy: Role of PMNCH

KT presented the work done by the Adolescents working group, which involves several RMNCH experts and involves work of other partners in the same area.

The EC discussed the comparative role of PMNCH being involved in the adolescents health work stream in addition to the work being taken forward by other partners in 2014.

The EC agreed that the work of PMNCH on adolescents health should be carried out through mainstreaming it within PMNCH 2014 workplan. The Partners Forum is expected to build and expand on PMNCH current strategy to cover new areas starting 2016, which would clarify PMNCH role then.

6. AOB

6.1 Schedule of EC calls

CP raised the fact that the Secretariat gained lots of experience and confidence from the EC and would like to recommend a more efficient way of managing the EC meetings. It is proposed that EC meetings be held every two months, with the possibility of holding an EC meeting once called for by an EC member. In the meantime, the Secretariat will be bringing to the attention of the EC any emerging issues through regular e-mails. The EC agreed to hold EC calls every two months.

6.2 NGOs Constituency Regional Focal Points

FA indicated that the NGOs constituency constitutes the largest segment of PMNCH members, amounting to a total of 350 members. Due to the large number of members and wide geographic distribution, it is difficult to involve members in other regions. Therefore, it is proposed to have two regional focal points for this constituency: once in West Africa to coordinate the work with member NGOs in Africa and another similar focal point in Asia.

Role of the regional focal point would be mainly to promote accountability and investment in women's and children's health regionally. It is estimated that each regional focal point would cost annually US\$ 80,000. The regional focal point may be hosted in one NGO at the respective region and a three-party agreement may be done between the host NGO, PMNCH and the constituency focal point on how to manage this position and its contribution.

LM raised several issues of concern about establishing regional focal points, mainly: (a) if one constituency has a regional focal point this would open the door for other constituencies to request the same; (b) such a decision needs to be taken in line with the 2014 workplan and budget, which under the current financial situation does not allow for such an initiative; and (c) PMNCH being partner-centric, it is suggested that one of the partners contribute to this initiative to cover the cost involved or one NGO member to finance this position while hosting it.

CF agreed with the points raised by LM and indicated that the private sector may be able to contribute to this initiative.

FA indicated the idea of establishing regional focal points for the NGOs constituency was thought about in 2012 and if funds are not available, then it is important to think about means of supporting this initiative.

The EC requested discussions to be carried out within the respective constituencies and to be further discussed in the next EC call.

Action/Decisions List

No.	Action	Agenda Item	Focal Point	Deadline
1	DECISION: to have one virtual working session of the Board on 12 December and to reduce the agenda to specific areas that need the Board's attention.	Item 2	The Secretariat	Done

2	ACTION: EC members will consult with their constituencies for further comments on the role of RMNCH Financing Harmonization Working Group	Item 4	The EC	10 Dec. 2013
3	DECISION: The EC agreed that the work of PMNCH on adolescents health should be carried out through mainstreaming it within PMNCH 2014 workplan.	Item 5	The Secretariat	-
4	DECISION: The EC agreed to hold EC calls every two months.	Item 6	The Secretariat	2014
5	ACTION: The EC requested discussions to be carried out within the respective constituencies on the idea to establish regional focal points for the NGOs constituency and to be further discussed in the next EC call.	Item 6	• The NGOs Constituency • The Private Sector Constituency • The Secretariat	2014