Note for the Record
PMNCH Executive Committee (EC) Meeting
02 September, 2013 – Telephone Call

Present: Flavia Bustreo and Elizabeth Mason (WHO); Anuradha Gupta (Government of India); Geoff Black (Canada); Francesco Aureli (Save the Children); José Miguel Belizán (Institute of Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy); Sharon D'Agostino (Johnson and Johnson); Sabaratnam Arulkumaran (FIGO); Magda Robert (Mrs Graca Machel office).

PMNCH Secretariat: Carole Presern, Nebojsa Novcic

AGENDA

Chair: Flavia Bustreo

- ITEM 1 – Review of NfRs
- ITEM 2 – Update on financing and governance
- ITEM 3 – Update on the External Evaluation of PMNCH (2009-2013)
- ITEM 4 – 2014 Partners' Forum and December 2013 Board retreat
- ITEM 5 – RMNCH Steering Committee & PMNCH Financing Harmonisation Group
- ITEM 6 – Update on AU Action Plan
- ITEM 7 – AOB

1. Review and approval of NfR from the EC call on August 5, 2013, and NfR, PMNCH June 2013 Board meeting in Johannesburg

Both notes for the record were approved.

2. Update on financing and governance

- CP explained to the EC that the NGO constituency is proposing a mechanism by which there would be two NGO focal points (one for Africa and one for Asia), whose role would be to coordinate information sharing and more generally engagement of the NGO community. More details will be presented at subsequent EC meetings.

- It was noted that Rajiv Tadon has resigned from Save the Children, and this place on the EC will be taken by Francesco Aureli. The EC used the opportunity to thank Rajiv for his contributions to the work of the EC over the years, and the Partnership as a whole.

- EC welcomed information on the fact that processes related to Finland and Germany becoming the latest donors to support the work of PMNCH are in the final stages. It is expected that the agreements will be concluded during the autumn. EC thanked colleagues from Finland and Germany.

- EC recognised that reporting processes to now 13 donors are a considerable burden on the small PMNCH Secretariat. It expressed its support for Secretariat to open discussions with donors who have the heaviest reporting requirements (e.g. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) to find ways in which this burden could be reduced.

- EC supported and encouraged the proposal from the Secretariat for PMNCH to reach out to donors in East Asia in due course, to explore greater engagement.

- It was agreed that another avenue of collaboration that ought to be explored is with representatives from the BRICs countries. AG noted that the next meeting of the BRICs ministers of health will be in South Africa in November 2013. Should time permit and capacity be available, it was suggested that the Partnership could liaise with Mrs Machel to check what opportunities might exist for ensuring that RMNCH is part of the discussions/ agendas of this meeting.

- It was also noted that as Ruth Lawson (DFID) has moved to Nigeria to take up a new post, Canada (Geoff Black and Jennifer Goosen) will be taking over the Chair role of the Donor and Foundation constituency and as such represent the constituency on the EC. The EC also used this opportunity to thank Ruth for her immense contribution to the work of the Partnership over the years.

3. Update on the External Evaluation of PMNCH (2009-2013)

- CP updated the EC on the efforts to date to identify potential members of the Independent External Evaluation Sub-Committee, who will oversee the forthcoming evaluation of the Partnership.

- It has been considerably more difficult to attract individuals to this role than was originally anticipated, and at the time of the meeting only one member was confirmed (Mariam Cleason, BMGF).

- EC noted the efforts, and suggested that the search should be expanded, now to include potentially individuals from country missions in Geneva. In addition, it was agreed that the Secretariat would reach out to someone with a financial background (John Good, IPPF, was suggested) and a Southern NGO (Magda Robert was to identify a name through Mrs Machel). Secretariat will update the EC on progress at the next meeting.

4. 2014 Partners' Forum and December 2013 Board retreat

- EC agreed with the proposal to hold a Board retreat across two afternoons on Dec 10 and 11, 2013. The Board retreat, to which only Board members and alternates would be invited, will take place virtually from a number of different locations. These will include Geneva and Johannesburg, among others.

- It was agreed that this retreat will be welcomed as it would be too long to wait for a whole year between two Board meetings.

- EC will oversee the development of a more fleshed out Agenda and concept for the meeting.

- EC agreed that there should be a PMNCH Partners Forum 2014, and suggested that June 10 to 12 be explored as the most appropriate dates. It was also agreed that the Partnership should reach out to Countdown to 2015 and Promise Renewed to check whether these initiatives would join forces with the Partnership in organising and attending this event.

- EC agreed that it will be important to establish a sub-committee of the Board to oversee the development of the Partner Forum. EC also recognised the immense pressure that this will place on the small Secretariat in terms of capacity, and agreed that it will be important to strengthen the Secretariat with consultants brought in to support the preparation of the Forum.

- EC also recognised that this event will be costly, and that sharing these costs with other initiatives will be important. It called upon the Secretariat to include the full costing of the Partners Forum in the 2014 Budget for the Board to discuss and approve.

- More work is now required to flesh out the concept for the Partners' Forum.

5. RMNCH Steering Committee & PMNCH Financing Harmonisation Group

- CP explained that the PMNCH Financing Harmonisation Group (FHG) is planning to meet in advance of the RMNCH Steering Committee meeting. She also noted that co-Chairs of the FHG have been selected and they were Ann Starrs and Neema Rusibamayila.

- FHG will be supported by SEEK Development consultants, who have been hired for this role after a competitive procurement process.

- EC noted that the RMNCH Steering Committee will meet on 16 September, 2013, and asks the Secretariat to update the EC on outcomes at the next meeting.

6. Update on AU Action Plan

- EC asked the Secretariat to provide an update on this process at the next EC meeting, recognising that the relevant papers have not yet been completed by AU colleagues. Secretariat will share the relevant papers with the EC when they become available.

7. AOB

- CP reminded EC members that the Partnership will be hosting an accountability brunch in New York on 22 September, 2013. Invitations for this event have been sent out to many stakeholders, and EC members are warmly invited.