Note for the Record
PMNCH Executive Committee (EC) Meeting
25 June, 2013 – Johannesburg, South Africa

Present: Flavia Bustreo and Elizabeth Mason (WHO); Anuradha Gupta (Government of India); Hamid Rushwan (FIGO); Francesco Aureli (Save the Children), Ruth Lawson (DFID), Sharon D'Agostino (Johnson and Johnson), Rafael Cortez (World Bank), Magda Roberts (Mrs Graça Machel's office)

PMNCH Secretariat: Carole Presern, Nebojsa Novcic

AGENDA

Co-Chairs: Flavia Bustreo and Anuradha Gupta

1. Review and approval of NfR from the EC call on June 4, 2013.
2. Discussion of Board Agenda items.
3. AOB

The co-Chairs welcomed the participants and agreed on the agenda for the EC meeting. It was noted that the EC met before each Board meeting to discuss the Agenda.

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

The note for the record from June 04, 2013, meeting was approved.

2. Discussion of Board Agenda items

The following Board Agenda Items were discussed.

ITEM 2 – Accelerating Progress towards Improved Women's and Children's Health in Africa: A Multi-stakeholder and Multi-sectoral Effort

- Opportunity to discuss ways in which PMNCH can work more closely with the African Union (AU), and more generally in the context of PMNCH's work on the continent.
- It was noted that individual donors had been approached by the AU for support towards the planned *"International Conference on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) in Africa"* meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, 1 – 3 August, 2013, but that it was not entirely clear what type of support was required and also what the nature and content of this meeting will be. It will be a good opportunity during the Board meeting to discuss this meeting.

ITEM 4 – Post 2015 Strategy: The Unfinished Agenda

- There was a discussion on the extent to which PMNCH should continue to be engaged in post 2015 development agenda:
    - Some of those present voiced their support for options 1 and 2 (i.e. scaling back PMNCH engagement somewhat). Whilst recognizing the immense work that has been done to date, onus should now be on constituency groups to work through their respective channels.

- Others encouraged PMNCH to actually be more aspirational, and scale up its involvement, particularly as the difference between the options is relatively small in terms of financial resources (around US$ 200,000) and when compared to the entire workplan budget of US$ 14.74m.

- There was a consensus that the concept of '*adolescent health*' needs to be supported in a much stronger way in the post-2015 discussions.

- Important for partners to strengthen their synergies as part of the advocacy efforts for maternal and child health in post-2015 development agenda. This is particularly important as there are a growing number of stakeholder groups that are opposed to including reproductive health and sexual rights in post 2015 discussions.

- The Committee noted that PMNCH should build on the great work that the incoming Chair, Mrs Graca Machel, has done to date as part of the global discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

ITEM 5 – Financing for RMNCH: Update

- The EC noted the calls from some members of the Committee about the need for greater clarity about the mandate and activities of the RMNCH Steering Committee. It was hoped that discussions at the Board meeting will lead to more information on this, and so as to enable better understanding of how the newly proposed PMNCH Financing Harmonisation Group will collaborate with the RMNCH Steering Committee.

- The discussions also noted that there was considerable scope to improve coordination of donor funding, and that countries are struggling to understand who they can approach and how to seek resources pledged by donors for funding RMNCH aspects of their national plans.

- There was strong support to the suggestion that the PMNCH Financing Harmonisation Group should increase in size to include another two country representatives, one more NGO, and one HCPA representative.

ITEM 11 – Governance Issues: PMNCH Evaluation

- It was noted that internally within WHO, PMNCH is seen as an example of best practice in terms of how a WHO hosted Partnerships should operate; PMNCH is fully compliant with all relevant WHO hosting rules and regulations.

- In undertaking the evaluation, it will be important for both the Secretariat and WHO (Flavia) to maintain a degree of distance during the evaluation, as part of a normal process to ensure no real or perceived conflicts of interest emerge. In this context, the EC strongly supported the idea of an independent committee of the Board to oversee the evaluation.

ITEM 10 – Accountability for Commitments and Results

- The EC recognized the considerable effort that has been directed at the annual commitment tracking reports by PMNCH over the last three years, and in 2013 in particular given the increasing number of commitments.

- It was also noted that it is time to rethink how PMNCH should continue to contribute to the accountability efforts going forward, noting that the current approach has served its purpose well in the past but is unlikely to be the best way forward. The survey approach in particular has become very cumbersome to manage (with almost 300 commitment makers

now); it is very difficult to have questionnaires meet the needs of very different stakeholders, and the response rate has reduced from the previous year.

- The EC also recognized that as information in OECD DAC becomes available for the years since the launch of the global strategy in 2010, this will become an important source of information.

8. AOB

No AOB was recorded.