The Partnership's Executive Committee (EC) Teleconference
Wednesday, 23 March 2016

09:30 Washing DC, 14:30 London, 15:30 CET, 16:30 Johannesburg, 20:00 New Delhi

DRAFT Note for the Record

Attendees: Katie Taylor, USAID (Chair); John Borrazzo, USAID; Betsy McCallon, White Ribbon Alliance; Flavia Bustreo, WHO; Núria Casamitjana, IS Global; Jan-Willem Scheijgrond, Philips; Yemurai Nyoni, Adolescents & Youth constituency; and Magda Robert, Advisor the Board Chair.

Speakers & Observers: Hareya Fassil, USAID; Ann Starrs, Guttmacher Institute; Shyama Kuruvilla, WHO; Sarah England, IAP.

Secretariat & Consultants: Robin Gorna, Ann Lion, Abir Shady, Anshu Mohan, and Ryan Weeks.

Objectives

The meeting convened members of the Partnership's Executive Committee (EC) to:

- *Review* and *approve* the note for the record of the EC call held on 17 February 2016.
- *Discuss* the nomination process for selecting a new EC Chair.
- *Review* updated ToRs for Strategic Objective (SO) Partner co-Conveners, Steering Groups and Communities of Practice, and *confirm* next steps for agreement at the April EC teleconference.
- *Review* and *approve* focal country selection criteria, and *give guidance* on the list of proposed countries to be approached first.
- *Discuss* the proposal to have a standing item on the Global Financing Facility (GFF) at all EC meetings.
- *Review* and *discuss* the Ad Hoc Governance Group's (AGG) Decision Set 1 (high level governance model, mandate, target profile, and ways of working).
- *Be informed* of upcoming governance events and *confirm* the Board associated events in May 2016.
- *Discuss* the proposal to have a standing item on the Independent Accountability Panel (IAP) at all EC meetings.
- *Discuss* emerging agreements and relationship between the IAP and the Partnership.

Recommendations and decisions (see details in Annex 1)

- *The Secretariat to write to the Board on the proposed process and timeline for the selection of a new Board co-Chair;*
- *The D&F constituency* to nominate a candidate for Board co-Chair before the 14th April EC call, to be submitted for the Board's approval on a no-objections basis.
- *EC members* to submit any further comments on the proposed criteria for country selection and proposed focal countries for 2016 to the Secretariat by Friday 25th March 2016.
- *Secretariat* to revise criteria for country selection and proposed focal countries for 2016 to be decided on the 14th April EC call.
- *EC members* to submit comments on AGG Decision Set 1 to Ann Starrs (astarrs@guttmacher.org) and Jo-Ann Purcell (joann.purcell@international.gc.ca) to be discussed on the 14th April EC call.

- *Secretariat* to extend the schedule for the 14th April EC call by 30 minutes to permit further discussion of items 4 and 6.

Annex 1: Summary of discussions

1. Approval of the note for the record of the EC call on 17 February 2016

The EC approved the note for the record from its previous call held on the 17th February 2016, with the revision that Daniel Tobon Garcia (Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights) be added to the list of participants.

2. Selection of a new Board co-Chair & EC Chair: Update

Background

The EC heard that Katie Taylor was standing down from USAID and thus her roles in the Partnership as the Board co-Chair and EC Chair. The EC discussed the most effective and agile process to nominate a new Board co-Chair, which will be submitted for the Board approval.

Discussion

The EC and Secretariat thanked Katie Taylor for her valuable services as Board co-Chair. The EC agreed that the Donors and Foundations constituency should propose a replacement co-Chair for the sake of expediency and continuity of the D&F term on the Board leadership.

Decisions and recommendations

- *The Secretariat to write to the Board on the proposed process and timeline for the selection of a new Board co-Chair;*
- *D&F constituency* to nominate a candidate for Board Co-Chair before the 14th April EC call, to be submitted for the Board's approval on a no-objections basis.

3. Update on the SO Partner Co-Conveners, Steering Groups and Communities of Practice

Background

The EC was briefed on the process underway to nominate and select Partner co-Conveners, Steering Groups and Communities of Practice for each Strategic Objective. Draft terms of reference for co-Convenors and Steering Group Members have been revised in line with feedback and discussion at the Board Retreat, Johannesburg, 1-2 March 2016. The window for nominations will close on the 29th March and a final list will be presented for the EC's consideration at its call on the 14th April. It was noted that each SO Manager within the Secretariat has already been in touch with the nominees to engage them with the ongoing work-planning process.

Discussion

The EC noted that the process had already made a good contribution towards improving partner engagement. The EC felt that, given the high number of nominations received for some SOs, the Secretariat should be flexible when applying the EC's previous decisions concerning nomination procedures and limits on the number of Steering Group Members.

4. Country Selection Criteria

Background

The EC was asked to review and approve selection criteria for focal countries, and to give guidance on the list of proposed countries to be approached in 2016. It was noted that selection criteria and the list of proposed countries were both based on Board discussions at its recent Retreat, where the Board had signalled its desire for a quick decision.

Discussion

EC members shared contrasting opinions on the draft selection criteria. Some members felt that each criterion should be explicitly weighted, while others advised that the most important criterion was the willingness of countries to engage - so the Secretariat should not be delayed in reaching out to countries by further revisions. It was also noted that the word "selection" could sound top-down and should be avoided. One member recommended that the proportion of young people in the population should be added to the list of criteria.

Decisions and recommendations

- *EC members* to submit any further comments on the proposed criteria for country selection and proposed focal countries for 2016 to the Secretariat by Friday, 25th March 2016.
- *Secretariat* to revise criteria for country selection and proposed focal countries for 2016 for decision on the 14th April EC call.

5. GFF: Standing item

It had been proposed to have a standing item on the GFF at all EC meetings, but due to time constraints, discussion of this item was postponed.

6. Update from the Ad Hoc Governance Group – Progress and Decision Set 1

Background

The EC was briefed on a set of decision points prepared by the Ad Hoc Governance Group (AGG) for the Board's high level governance model, mandate, target profile, and ways of working. One of the principal recommendations was that the current Board should adopt a more advisory role, and shift governance-related decision-making responsibilities to the EC: becoming the "Advisory Board" and "Executive Board" respectively. The Finance Committee would be complemented by a Strategy Committee and a Governance & Nominations Committee, which would all report to the Executive Board.

Discussion

Discussion of the decision set was postponed owing to time constraints. EC members were asked to contribute written comments ahead of its next meeting, but it was noted that feedback from constituency consultations would be more helpful after the decision set had been revised in line with the EC's initial views.

Decisions and recommendations

- *EC members* to submit comments on AGG Decision Set 1 to Jo-Ann Purcell (joann.purcell@international.gc.ca) and Ann Starrs (astarrs@guttmacher.org) to be discussed on the 14th April EC call.
- *Secretariat* to extend the schedule for the 14th April EC call by 30 minutes to permit further discussion of items 4 and 6.

7. Upcoming Governance Events

The EC was provided with a note detailing the Partnership's upcoming governance events throughout 2016. Due to time constraints, the EC was not able to further discuss this item and the May Board meeting and associated events.

8. Independent Accountability Panel: Standing item

It had been proposed to have a standing item on the IAP at all EC meetings, but due to time constraints, discussion of this item was postponed.

9. AOB

No other business was raised.