

Secretariat Hosted by the World Health Organization and Board Chaired by Mrs Graça Machel

DRAFT Note for the Record
PMNCH Executive Committee Meeting
10th November, 2014

PRESENT

EC Members: Flavia Bustreo, WHO (FB); José Belizán, Institute of Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy (JB); Frances Day-Stirk, International Confederation of Midwives (FD); Craig Friderichs, GSM Association (CF); Magda Robert, representing Graça Machel (MR); Geoff Black, Canada (GB); Naida Pasion, Save the Children (NP); Nicole Klingen, World Bank (NK); and Rafael Cortez, World Bank (RC).

PMNCH Secretariat: Andrés de Francisco (AdF); Abir Shady (AS).

Speakers: Nana Kuo, Senior Manager - Every Woman Every Child Team, Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General (NK); and Allison Beattie, PMNCH Lead Consultant – GFF Project Management (AB).

AGENDA

Chair: FB

- ITEM 1 – Review of the action points and NfR of previous meeting
- ITEM 2 – Financing and governance
 - Agreeing the agenda for the 16th Board Meeting and Strategy Retreat, Geneva 1-2 December
 - Update on Executive Director recruitment
 - Update on constituency definitions and members rotation process
- ITEM 3 – 2015 Workplan and Post-2015 PMNCH Strategy
- ITEM 4 – PMNCH Consultations on the Global Financing Facility
- ITEM 5 – PMNCH accountability related activities in 2014 and 2015
- ITEM 6 – AOB

0. Welcome and Opening Remarks

FB opened by welcoming all EC members to the call. FB introduced the agenda and noted that it included several items which held great relevance to PMNCH's role in shaping the post-2015 RMNCH+A landscape through PMNCH's Board, the 2015 Workplan, the Post-2015 Strategy, and PMNCH's engagement with the Global Financing Facility (GFF) and the next Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health.

1. Review of the action points and NfR of previous meeting

The NfR from the EC meeting on 22 September, 2014, was approved by all members.

2. Financing and governance

Board meeting agenda

AdF introduced the 16th Board Meeting and Strategy Retreat, which will be held from 1-2 December 2014 in Geneva, and will allow the Board to shape the future of PMNCH.

The EC agreed that the agenda should be amended so that discussions on the post-2015 agenda precede the discussions on the PMNCH workplan. The agenda should also reflect that an external consultant will facilitate the session and participants will really need to engage in the discussions and brainstorming.

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The EC raised further comments concerning how the Board's discussions would be structured. AdF informed the EC that PMNCH consultants were preparing a discussion document to inform and motivate the Board's plenary and breakout discussions. The document will incorporate issues arising from the discussions of PMNCH's Working Groups.

The EC also noted that the Retreat should have a clear methodology for reaching decisions; should leave plenty of time for discussion; and should be an engaging experience for Board members. AdF noted that these comments would be used to guide the Retreat's agenda.

Executive Director recruitment

FB noted that advertisements for the position had received a great deal of attention, and more than 250 applications had been received. FB noted that the interview and selection process was ongoing, with the successful candidate expected to be selected by 1st December. An announcement is planned for the Board Retreat at lunch on the second day.

Actions:

- PMNCH Secretariat to amend the Board Retreat Agenda to incorporate the EC's feedback that discussion of the post-2015 agenda should precede discussion of the PMNCH 2015 workplan.

3. 2015 Workplan and Post-2015 PMNCH Strategy

AdF introduced the draft 2015 Workplan for the EC's review, before being presented to the Board at the Strategy Retreat. AdF noted that 2015 would be an important year for making a final push towards the Millennium Development Goals, shaping the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, and managing the transition between them. AdF explained that the proposed 2015 Workplan is comprised of 10 areas of work, including some new areas of work and some to finalise ongoing activities from 2014. AdF noted that the 2015 Workplan did not include any large new projects. The overall budget for the proposed 2015 Workplan was US\$ 10 million.

The EC asked for clarification on the key opportunities facing PMNCH in 2015. FB explained that influencing the direction of RMNCH+A efforts in the post-2015 era presents a major opportunity for PMNCH, such as through engagement in the development of the new Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health.

The EC agreed that, overall, the Workplan was reasonable but could be too extensive. In particular:

- Related to the GFF, it will be important for PMNCH to contribute to the discussions, but perhaps not actually undertake a very strong role in defining the business plan, as this may be too demanding.
- Related to the country multi-stakeholder dialogue activities, it was felt that five countries could be too many, and it may make sense for some to be postponed until 2016.

AdF noted that the proposed Workplan is designed to be flexible to enable PMNCH to adapt to the opportunities that present themselves at a time when so much would be changing.

Actions:

- PMNCH Secretariat to update the draft Workplan and submit to the Board for approval in December.

4. PMNCH Consultations on the Global Financing Facility

FB invited AdF to give a broad update on PMNCH's engagement with the GFF. AdF recommended that PMNCH should not seek to become involved in the main body of the GFF's workstreams, particularly Business Plan development, which would demand a great deal of PMNCH's limited human resources. Rather, PMNCH should continue to play to its comparative advantage in convening partners and stakeholders across RMNCH+A through the consultation process.

FB then invited AB to update the EC in more detail on PMNCH's consultations in support of the GFF. AB reported that consultations had commenced. A dedicated web-platform has been developed as a key part of this consultation process, which could be found at www.WomenChildrenPost2015.org. The platform has been setup to receive views, instigate discussion, and promote learning. The site houses a consultation questionnaire relating to the GFF, as well as a toolkit to encourage visitors to lead their own consultations. Several consultations were also planned for the following two months in Africa and South-East Asia, which PMNCH will support. AB noted that PMNCH's consultant team would be preparing a first-draft report to be discussed at the Board meeting, and a final draft for mid-December. AB further noted that PMNCH have agreed with the World Bank that it would send a representative to sit on the GFF's Oversight Group to give feedback and take information between the GFF and stakeholder-consultations. PMNCH had not sought to join the GFF's Business Planning Group, which AB advised would be a large time commitment that did not play to PMNCH's strengths or aims.

The EC welcomed the progress of the GFF consultations. The EC asked whether it would be able to view a draft consultation report before it was submitted to the Board. FB replied that this would not be possible due to the tight consultation timeframes. FB added that the first-draft report may not be ready for the 1-2 Dec.

NK noted that the consultations were a great opportunity to link the new Global Strategy with a conversation surrounding broader RMNCH+A financing, since the GFF was unlikely to be the solution to all RMNCH+A financing problems.

5. PMNCH accountability related activities in 2014 and 2015

FB invited NK to feedback from retreats in Geneva and Oslo, and to introduce PMNCH's proposed engagement on accountability-related activities. NK noted that accountability issues surrounding the Every Woman Every Child initiative in the next Global Strategy were prominent in a recent retreat in Oslo, which was attended by representatives from PMNCH, the UN Foundation, and the office of the UN Secretary-General. There was a strong consensus in Oslo that there needed to be some level of overall reporting on progress towards RMNCH+A commitments. It was proposed that the Every Woman Every Child website should become a platform for this reporting. The Secretary-General has agreed to send a letter to institutions that have made commitments towards RMNCH+A goals to encourage them to report to this platform. PMNCH has been asked to form a Working Group to facilitate this and ensure alignment between FP2020 and other stakeholders collecting similar information. NK further noted that this activity would feed into the process behind the next Global Strategy.

NK also noted the need for a separate accountability workstream to think through some of the larger accountability issues, such as ensuring OECD, IHME and Muskoka alignment on tracking RMNCH activities and financing, as well as country level governance and tracking work.

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6. AOB

AdF updated the EC on PMNCH's upcoming involvement in the Partners in Population and Development meeting scheduled for the end of November in New Delhi, and the annual meeting on violence against women, at which the Finance Minister for Uganda would be introducing the session. AdF noted that these event highlight the importance of PMNCH's role in building consensus and advocating for RMNCH+A.