Note for the Record
PMNCH Executive Committee Teleconference
16th February, 2015

PRESENT

EC Members: Flavia Bustreo, WHO (FB); Ann Starrs, Guttmacher Institute (AS); Katie Taylor, USAID (KT); Craig Friderichs, GSM Association (CF); Rachel Wilson, PATH (RW); Nicole Klingen, World Bank (NK); and Hamid Rashid, FIGO (HR).
PMNCH Secretariat: Robin Gorna (RG); Andrés de Francisco (AdF); Abir Shady (AS).

Speakers: Gill Sivyer, PWC (GS); and Allison Beattie, PMNCH Consultant – GFF & GS Consultations (AB).

AGENDA

Chair: FB

- ITEM 1 – Review of the action points and NfR of previous EC meeting
- ITEM 2 – PMNCH 2015 Workplan – Speaker: Andres de Francisco (ADF)
- ITEM 3 – PMNCH new Strategic Framework beyond 2015 – Speaker: Gill Sivyer (GS)
- ITEM 4 – PMNCH Consultations in 2015: GFF and Update to the Global Strategy – Speaker: Allison Beattie (AB)
- ITEM 5 – Financing and governance – Speaker: Robin Gorna (RG)
    - Board meeting, London, 20-21 April 2015
    - Board co-Chair election
- ITEM 6 – AOB

0. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The EC members were welcomed to the call. The agenda was introduced, and it was noted that it included several items which are critical during the transitional year of 2015, including: the new post-2015 PMNCH Strategic Framework and the PMNCH 2015 workplan. The agenda was approved and no other business was added.

The EC also welcomed the new PMNCH Executive Director, Robin Gorna, and noted that this was her first EC call.

Robin Gorna thanked the EC for the warm welcome and expressed her enthusiasm and excitement to join PMNCH and participate in the EC call. She noted that she looked forward to working with all Board members and partners to take PMNCH's collective work forward.

The EC also welcomed new EC members, whether present on the call or through their alternates who are participating in their stead, namely: Anthony Costello represented by Ann Starrs for the ARTs constituency; Katie Taylor for the D&Fs; C.N. Purandare, represented by Hamid Rashid for the HCPAs.

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

The NfR from the EC meeting on 10 November, 2014, was approved by all members.

2. PMNCH 2015 workplan

AdF introduced the 2015 Workplan. It was explained that the presented document develops the material that was presented to the Board during the Retreat, Geneva, 1-2 December, 2014. At the Retreat, the Board endorsed the proposed areas of work, and requested that the Secretariat further develops them into a more detailed costed workplan. The EC was also informed that the structure of the presented workplan reflects the recommendations from the external evaluation and therefore shows areas of work, outputs, outcomes, and linkages to the long terms change that the Partnership is aiming to achieve. The proposed workplan's total budget amounts to USD 11.1 million.

The workplan aims to achieve two main objectives:

- To contribute to the development and increased political support for an updated Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, with an accompanying plan for national implementation; and
- To support partners to deliver on RMNCAH objectives, including those set out in the global Strategy, through a fit-for-purpose PMNCH.

The EC was requested to review the Draft Board decision paper. If the EC agrees with the workplan as presented, the Secretariat will send the workplan to the Board as a recommendation from the EC for a two weeks' no objection approval process.

The EC agreed and commended the workplan structure and layout. The EC finds the budget to be reasonable in view of 2015 being a transitional year, and taking into account the budget of USD 12.5 million for 2014 workplan.

Members of the EC raised a number of questions on the presented draft PMNCH 2015 workplan. These are noted below with responses, and will be included in a separate note to the EC together with an updated workplan for final approval.

1. *Are there sufficient funds available to meet the cost of the presented workplan?*

Around 80% of funding is deemed to be currently available in the form of existing donors commitments, with some flexibility in between the years due to differences in individual donors' financial years and therefore payment schedules. More fundraising will need to take place in 2015, particularly in order to ensure that PMNCH has a viable start to implementing its workplan in 2016.

2. *Could you provide a brief explanation of the three main cost centres, as noted in the draft paper: outsourcing, administrative staff costs and WHO Programme support costs?*

The majority of the budget is spent on outsourcing to expert consultants and technical staff costs to deliver the workplan. This is the main cost driver of the 2015 workplan. The administrative staff cost represents a small proportion of the total workplan budget (around 7%), while the WHO Program Support Costs (PSC) represent the costs of hosting the Partnership at WHO (around 11% of total). The PSC costs contribute to the buildings and office space, equipment, human resources administration and staff welfare, legal services, physical security, travel and visa services, etc.

3. *Why the cost allocated to area of work 7 (Governance and constituencies management) exceeds the cost allocated to area of work 6 (Developing the PMNCH Strategic Framework and implementation plan for 2016 and beyond, followed by a detailed Partnership governance review)?*

The work on developing the PMNCH Strategic Framework commenced in the last quarter of 2014, with accompanying costs reflected in the 2014 financial year expenditure and encumbrances. As such, the cost indicated in the workplan for work area 6 reflects the remaining activities that are needed to develop the new PMNCH Strategic Framework. Overall, the development of the Strategic Framework is a major priority for the Partnership in 2015.

4. *The knowledge summaries that the partnership has developed over the years have been seen by many as useful and value-adding. Will this work continue and will there be a review of their usefulness?*

An evaluation of the Knowledge Summaries work has been undertaken by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and can be found here:

http://ideas.lshtm.ac.uk/resources/pmnch-knowledge-summaries-improving-their-production-process-reach-and-use. The Secretariat has an internal meeting in early March, 2015, to define the exact approach for this year.

5. *Will area of work 3.1 (RMNCAH financing and economics, including the Global Financing Facility (GFF), as part of the eventual implementation mechanisms for the updated Global Strategy) take account of the work undertaken to date on the Global Investment Framework?*

Yes, this work area will draw heavily on the Global Investment Framework.

6. *Will NGOs/ CSOs be involved in the accountability related discussions and work (as noted by area of work 2.2 Accountability - Contribution to existing and development of new accountability processes towards the Global Strategy)?*

Yes. The Partnership continues to work with and develop the NGO constituency, which is its largest constituencies. The NGO constituency will be taking an active role in the consultations and work on developing accountability related processes to underpin the Global Strategy.

7. *The Secretariat is asked to include in the presented workplan table a summary of high level indicators, for major activity areas or groups of activity areas.*

The updated workplan table will be shared with the EC for review. EC members have made themselves available to provide guidance or discuss the indicator issues, as may be appropriate.

Actions:

- The Secretariat to revise the 2015 workplan in light of the EC's discussion and circulate an updated version, including indicators to the EC during the week commencing 23 February, 2015, for clearance. Unless there are any objections or comments from the EC on the updated version of the workplan, it will be assumed approved and shared with the Board by the end of that week.

3. PMNCH new strategic framework beyond 2015

GS presented a draft consultation plan for the development of the new post-2015 PMNCH Strategic Framework. It is based on the Board's valuable inputs gathered during the Board Retreat, Geneva, 1-2 December 2014. The presented plan was to have a total of thirty one-to-one interviews, and group calls.

The following milestones for the completion of the Strategic Framework development process were presented:

- 09 March, 2015: A draft strategic framework to be sent to the EC for review and feedback.
- 07 April, 2015: A final draft strategic framework to be sent to the Board for review, to be the focus of discussion and decision during the Board Meeting, London, 20-21 April 2015.

The presentation noted that the objective is now to refine this process, define who to interview and what are the next steps.

The EC made the following points in this regard:

- The EC expressed a concern that to-date they have not seen any substantial content of the PMNCH Strategic Framework. Stakeholder consultations will only be successful if they have some, even if only initial, content and proposals to focus the discussions and get people's opinions.
- The EC agreed that it is very important to expand the reach of the consultations beyond the 'usual suspects', i.e. the Board, chairs of constituencies, etc. The consultations are an opportunity to diversify views on what PMNCH's future looks like, and it therefore needs to more specifically dig down into members of the constituencies that are not usual active, particularly country and regionally based stakeholders.
- It is important to mobilize the large PMNCH constituencies base for this purpose and a critical question is "What is the specific role of PMNCH and how to leverage it?"
- The institutional environment within which PMNCH operates is very fluid and subject to rapid change. As such, some proposals that were raised at the Board retreat may already be outpaced by events, and so any proposals and further consultations will need to take into account these ongoing changes (e.g. in asking the question about PMNCH's relationship with EWEC, etc.).
- While it is a given that PMNCH will support the implementation of the updated Global Strategy, the EC also recognized the fact that the updated Global Strategy has not yet been finalized and therefore the PMNCH Strategic Framework needs to be mindful of remaining flexible as the time goes by in 2015.

The EC members also offered to provide support during this process, perhaps through having a small group from among EC members to provide guidance and inputs to the content of the strategic framework. Ann Starrs, Katie Taylor, Rachel Wilson and Nicole Klingen offered the Executive Director to reach out to the EC members as and when required.

The consultants agreed with the Secretariat to refine the interviewees list and ensure more focus on countries.

Actions:

- The consultants to work with the Secretariat to refine the interviewees list and ensure broader country, regional and NGOs inputs.
- The Secretariat to reach out to the EC members to support developing the content of the strategic framework, as and when required.
- To circulate to the EC a draft strategic framework that has substantive content by 9 March 2015.

4. Global consultations in 2015: GFF and update to the Global Strategy

AB referred to the GFF consultations synthesis report, which fed into the current process of consultations to update the Global Strategy on Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health. The second report, focusing on the Global Strategy, will be a summary of responses received during the consultation.

PMNCH anticipates that the Global Strategy consultation process will be carried out in three phases in 2015.

- **Round 1** (20 Feb-20 March; synthesis report due 2 April). Together with the global stakeholder meeting in New Delhi, 26-27 Feb, this round of consultation will focus on key questions posed by the technical working groups of the Global Strategy to feed into the overall drafting process of the Strategy;
- **Round 2** (end-April to end-May; synthesis report due early June): Together with a global stakeholder meeting in South Africa (5 - 6 May), this round will share the draft text of the Global Strategy with a wide set of stakeholders for response and support, including at a high-level side event at the World Health Assembly in Geneva during the week of 18 May;
- **Round 3** (TBC, tentatively July-Aug): A third round of consultation, could seek feedback on implementation plans associated with the Global Strategy process.

Each consultation phase will produce written and oral feedback that will be collated into a PMNCH-led synthesis report, to be shared with the leads of the Global Strategy effort and the wider community. This consultation process will be supported throughout by an interactive online hub (www.womenchildrenpost2015.org), which will continually share information and feedback from the consultation, report on events, and curate a social media-based discussion. This online user-generated content will also be collated to feed into the PMNCH synthesis reports.

The EC commended the efforts exerted so far and looks forward to a very rich updated Global Strategy.

5. Financing and governance

Board Meeting, London, 20-21 April, 2015

RG presented the initial thinking about the Board meeting agenda, proposing that the meeting focuses on PMNCH new Strategic Framework, reflecting on the broader context of the SDGs, updating of the Global Strategy and the GFF development process. The meeting should also consider how the Strategic Framework will be accompanied by a more detailed implementation plan for PMNCH's strategy beyond 2015, as well as discuss plans for a Governance Review.

The EC noted that the UK government will not be able to host the meeting in London because of the election. However, an option could be the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, recommended by FIGO. In this respect, the Secretariat will check the different available options in London.

The EC agrees with the presented thoughts about the Board meeting and its agenda. The EC expects that the main result of the forthcoming Board meeting will be to approved the new Strategic Framework for PMNCH beyond 2015.

The Secretariat is requested to send the EC a draft Board meeting agenda for review in time for the next EC meeting discussions.

Actions:

- The Secretariat to circulate to the EC members a draft agenda of the 16 Board Meeting, planned to take place in London, UK, on 20-21 April 2015.

Board co-Chair election

RG gave an overview on the background of the current process for electing a Board co-Chair, to take place in April 2015, and which will replace WHO. Mrs Graça Machel, Board Chair indicated during the Board Retreat, 1-2 December, 2014, that it would be the turn of the D&Fs constituency to take up the position of the Board co-Chair. This recommendation was also included in the Draft Retreat Note for the Record, sent to the Board on 8 January, 2015.

Accordingly, the Secretariat facilitated a selection process within the D&Fs constituency to choose a candidate from among its current Board representatives to undertake the co-Chair position. The process was successfully finalized, and USAID was the sole nomination for this role. The Secretariat will be writing to the Board during the last week of February 2015, at least 40 days before the Board meeting, to advise them of this.

The EC supported the process and the election of USAID as the new Board co-Chair.

Actions:

- The Secretariat to write to the Board during the last week of February 2015, at least 40 days before the Board meeting, to finalize the Board co-Chair election.

6. AOB

FB announced that Dr Andres de Francisco, current Deputy Executive Director, will be leaving PMNCH after seven years of service. Early May 2015, he will join the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) in Washington DC, as the Director of the Family, Equity and the Life Course Department. The EC expressed its gratitude for Andres' many years' of service at PMNCH, his dedication to the cause supported by the partnership, and his leadership. While recognising that Andres' departure is a considerable loss for PMNCH, the EC wishes Andres all the best in his new role.