

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

The Partnership's Executive Committee (EC) Teleconference Monday, 20 June 2016

10:00 Washing DC, 15:00 London, 16:00 CET, 17:30 Johannesburg

DRAFT Note for the Record

Attendees: Helga Fogstad, NORAD (Chair); John Borrazzo, USAID; Betsy McCallon, White Ribbon Alliance; Flavia Bustreo, WHO; Ann Starrs, Guttmacher Institute; Núria Casamitjana, IS Global; Jan-Willem Scheijgrond, Royal Philips; Stefan Germann, World Vision International; Shyama Kuruvilla, WHO and Magda Robert, Advisor to the Board Chair.

Secretariat & Consultants: Ann Lion, Abir Shady, Tammy Farrell

Objectives

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

- Agree the notes for the record of the previous EC Meeting in Copenhagen on 17 May 2016
- Note changes made and arrangements during the transition phase at the PMNCH Secretariat and IAP
- Feedback and update on WD and WHA
- Note and guide on the financial situation and propose prioritisation of activities in 2016
- Note and guide on the transition plan for specific work streams from UNF to PMNCH

Recommendations and decisions

- The EC approved the notes for the record of the EC meeting on 17 May
- Ann Lion accepted to act as ED a.i. until August 2016. The EC has asked her to extend her stay in this role until October 2016.
- Emanuele Capobianco has accepted the offer as the Deputy Executive Director of PMNCH and has signed the contract. Discussions are underway with the Global Fund for his release date.
- Work is underway for the process of looking for the next Executive Director.

Summary of discussions

1. Welcome & Announcement

The EC Chair welcomed EC members to the call and reviewed the agenda. It was noted that the agenda was good.

2. Update on the transition phase: PMNCH Secretariat and IAP

Ann Lion confirmed a firm has been identified and arrangements being firmed up on terms for a workshop on teambuilding and communication for the Secretariat staff.

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There will be the process of looking for the next Executive Director of the Partnership. Work is underway. Staff contracts are up to mid to late 2016. Nick's last day was Friday, his replacement should start on 15 July. Ann Lion feels the new Admin & Finance Officer is competent, open and fun.

WHO has kindly identified someone for SO2 and will co-fund this position. Discussions are underway with this person.

In response to the EC questions on (a) Sarah England's Position; (b) Firewall between PMNCH Secretariat and IAP and (c) UNGA 2016 -- Ann Lion responded that IAP staffing is underway as well. The IAP chair resigned during WHA. Carmen Borraro has agreed to act as interim chair. IAP report in September might not happen until later due to the present situation. The initial discussions was to get the report ready for UNGA 2016 where it will be launched.

Sarah England was on a temporary contract, she made a decision not to sign her next contract due to personal reasons. The position has been advertised, CVs have been collected by HR to be reviewed by Ann Lion in the next few days, interviews will be conducted in mid-July.

Ann Lion confirmed that there is a firewall between the PMNCH Secretariat and IAP. She is trying to ensure that there are systems in place to support the IAP, the Secretariat is trying to ensure that there is administrative and programmatic support for IAP. Carmen Borraro has requested for a high-level PA and the Secretariat is looking to hire a high-level PA for her.

In relation to accountability, there is special event on SO2 which is co-organised by PMNCH and the UN Secretary-General Office -- Every Woman Every Child. The discussions will be around how the first twenty countries of the SDG's on accountability are getting to the SDG's; report of the accountability Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health.

3. Update from WD and WHA

Background

PMNCH had several events at WD and WHA. PMNCH organised several events with partners at Women Deliver. The adolescents and Youth was also launched.

Discussion

PMNCH participation was driven by Partners due to the departure of the PMNCH Executive Director of PMNCH. PMNCH presence and visibility was highly enhanced, the transition is not hampering the visibility of PMNCH on the contrary, it is rather enhancing it. The Executive Committee Chair, Helga Fogstad represented PMNCH in the Global Partners of Education conference in Norway.

Decisions and recommendations

There was a suggestion that it should be made clear when a Board member is speaking/representing PMNCH or their own organisation when they speak at events and/or delivering key messages or make it clear they representing both their organisation and PMNCH. There should be a process in place -- briefing notes when wearing a PMNCH hat or speaking for PMNCH may be useful.

4. Financial and Workplan Update

Background

Notes and guides on the financial situation and proposed prioritisation of activities in 2016.

Discussion

Cost containment is important, steps are being taken to cut cost -- the current contract with Accenture has been cut in half. PMNCH made an oral commitment of large sum to Women Deliver but only half of the committed amount was given, staffing fewer people at the board meeting as well. In order to cut cost, rather than sending staff to participate in meetings, partners are being asked to represent PMNCH -- this is philosophically the right thing to do. Magda reported that Mrs Machel outreach whenever she has the opportunity, not just financial contribution but also advocacy.

PMNCH is looking at engaging with Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) for funding. The secretariat is basically looking at existing donors and reaching out to new possible donors.

Decisions and recommendations

- Using partners for brainstorming
- Key communications from our partners to guide key communication strategy to cut cost – asking partners instead contracting out
- Each SO working with 50% of their budget to cut cost
- Good news from BMGF re funding
- DFID has asked for some informal documentation – signalling some positive move
- Cost containment strategy is very useful

5. UNF Transition

Background

Notes and guides on the transition plan for specific work streams from UNF to PMNCH

Discussion

Discussions between UNF, PMNCH and EOSG held in April generated the following agreement: To have monthly EWEC advocacy calls which will be managed by PMNCH and website and social media management to be led by EOSG while PMNCH communications capacity is increased. In line with this agreement, PMNCH has organized on 16 June, the monthly EWEC call and will moving forward continue to organize these. PMNCH will also update the EWEC calendar of events for 2017. In addition, a small working group on commitments will in July, develop a commitment mobilization strategy with a more targeted list of events, opportunities and proposed activities for implementation by various partners.

The Private Sector had a meeting where they discussed ways to align with other working groups on better working relationships. There were discussions about other companies interested in the GFF. The WHO due diligence process was also discussed. The Private Sector is going through the workplan to see what some of the partners like WorldBank, UNF and PMNCH – what kind of funds will be needed to expand

Decisions and recommendations

- Monthly EWEC advocacy calls will be managed by PMNCH
- Website and social media management will be led by EOSG while PMNCH communications capacity is increased
- A discussion about whether some of these responsibilities might shift to PMNCH will occur upon hiring of P4 communications office.
- Secretariat notes EC request for a discussion to happen with EOSG on how to improve the EWEC website.
- The Post 2015 WG co-chaired by UNF has been folded into the SO2 COP given overlapping mandates.

6. AOB

Betsy McCallon suggested that the Secretariat post a short note on the PMNCH website about the murder of former British MP Jo Cox. It will be important for this community to support others in celebrating her life.