
Information Note EC Chair Election Process

16 March 2016

Purpose

This note provides information on the nomination and election process for a new Executive Committee (EC) Chair, to respond to the advice received that there will be an imminent change in leadership of the EC. This information is extracted from the Board Manual which describes the process to be undertaken in order to select Board co-Chairs. The note proposes next steps and a timeline for the EC to consider during its call on 23 March 2016.

The EC is asked to note this information.

Background

In December 2014, during the Board Retreat, a Board co-Chair seat became vacant and the Board Chair requested the Secretariat to initiate a nomination process for a new co-Chair. The Board Chair recommended that this vacancy be occupied by a member of the Donors and Foundations (D&F) constituency as it is the only constituency, along with the Private Sector (and now the Adolescent & Youth Constituency), that had never occupied a Board leadership role. Based on this recommendation the D&Fs undertook a transparent selection process and agreed for USAID, represented by Katie Taylor, to become the Board co-Chair. This was endorsed by the Board in April 2015.

All Board co-Chair and Chair terms are for two years. Katie Taylor has advised that she will be resigning from her position at USAID and will complete just one year of the term.

Board Chairs and Co-Chairs

The Board has a Chair and two Co-Chairs who act in support of, and in the absence of, the Chair. As far as possible, the Chair and Co-Chairs reflect a balance between maternal, newborn and child health interests and different constituencies and geographical areas.

The Chair and Co-Chairs represent the Partnership in communications with organizations, countries and other initiatives in the global health arena. The Chair and Co-Chairs are elected in a transparent manner by the Board. The Chair and Co-Chairs shall be selected by Board Members by vote following a request for nominations. Nominations may be submitted by Board Members only¹.

Nominations for the Chair and Co-Chair positions can be made by a constituency group or by any Board Member (representative) acting as an individual. The Chair might be an individual who is not a member of the Board or who represents an organization from outside the PMNCH membership. The Co-Chairs, however, should represent member organizations, or constituencies, on the Board.

There are no requirements for particular constituencies to be represented or rotated. However, it may be suggested that the D&Fs undertake another selection process to complete the term of the co-Chair, especially given that during this year the Governance Strengthening Process, including governance restructuring, has led to interim arrangements being put in place (eg all Board members being extended through to end July 2016).

¹ Source: Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Governance, submitted to the Board, December 2007.

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

Terms of office

The term of office of the Chair and Co-Chairs is two years, renewable once.

Election

Elections of the Chair and Co-Chairs should be staggered. In the case of a vacancy, elections to fill the vacant slot may take place at the first Board meeting at which a vacancy exists, or prior to, by correspondence.

The Chair and Co-Chairs are elected following a transparent call for nominations. The Secretariat shall announce forthcoming elections to the Board Members and call for nominations at least 40 days in advance of the election. Nominations may be received any time prior to the election. Candidates are eligible for election when they have been nominated, and their nomination has been seconded by Board members with voting privileges. Candidates must have confirmed to the Secretariat that they accept the nomination, and shall provide proof of their organization's support for the nomination. The Secretariat shall make available to the Board the curriculum vitae of all nominees prior to the election. The Chair might be an individual who is not a member of the Board or who represents an organization from outside the PMNCH membership, while the Co-Chairs should represent member organizations, or constituencies, on the Board.

The Chair shall conduct the election, or, in the event the Chair is a candidate, the Co-Chair. In the event both the Chair and Co-Chair are candidates, the longest-serving Board member shall conduct the election. During the election no candidates shall be permitted in the meeting room. Should the election process be conducted by email, the Secretariat will provide facilitation. If there is only one candidate for the position, the process shall proceed by acclamation.

Next Steps and proposed timeline

- 17 March 2016 Formal notification of the intention to step down as EC Chair/Board Co-Chair
- 23 March 2016 EC Meeting
- 24 March 2016 Call for nominations to be sent out to the Board
- 3 May 2016 Nominations close
- Secretariat collates the candidatures; confirms willingness to serve and organisational support; and prepares the election process.
- 19-20 May 2016 Selection and announcement of the new Board co-Chair (EC Chair) at the 18th Board Meeting.