

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

Note for the Record
PMNCH Executive Committee Teleconference
27 March, 2015

PRESENT

EC Members: Flavia Bustreo, WHO (FB); Ann Starrs, Guttmacher Institute (AS) (representing Anthony Costello); Katie Taylor, USAID (KT); Betsy McCallon, White Ribbon Alliance (BM), Nicole Klingen, World Bank (NK); Hamid Rashid, FIGO (HR) (representing Dr.C.N.Purandare); Anshu Mohan (representing Mr Mishra, India) (AM), Magda Robert (representing Mrs Machel) (MR).

PMNCH Secretariat: Robin Gorna (RG); Abir Shady (AS); Nebojsa Novcic (NN)

Speakers: Julian Schweitzer, Consultant (JS)

AGENDA

Chair: FB

- ITEM 1 – Review of the action points and NfR of previous meeting
- ITEM 2 – PMNCH 16th Board Meeting, 20-21 April, 2015, London, UK
 - 2.1 Board meeting and logistics
 - 2.2 Board self-assessment questionnaire
- ITEM 3 – PMNCH Post-2015 Strategic Framework
 - 3.1 PMNCH Post-2015 Strategic Framework
 - 3.2 Plans for GFF governance
 - 3.3 PMNCH governance review
- ITEM 4 – HCPAs project on essential intervention
- ITEM 5 – AOB
 - Update on PMNCH 2015 workplan approval process
 - Update on PMNCH membership

ITEM 1 – Review of the action points and NfR of previous meeting

The NfR from the EC meeting on 16 February, 2015, was approved, with no comments.

ITEM 2 – PMNCH 16th Board Meeting, 20-21 April, 2015, London, UK

RG introduced the draft Agenda for the Board meeting to take place on 20-21 April, 2015, in London, presenting two scenarios. The two scenarios differed in whether or not the GFF Oversight Group would have its meeting at the end of the Board meeting ends.

Issues raised or agreed by the EC on the proposed Agenda were as follows:

- **Board Agenda scenario.** Since circulating the agenda options, the World Bank had advised that the GFF Oversight Group would not meet in London. Approved Scenario 1 Board agenda, subject to noted comments and suggestions.
- **Pre-constituency meeting dates.** Reverse the proposed list of constituency meetings – i.e. move those currently noted to take place on Sunday to Monday, and vice versa.
- **Closed Sessions.** Agree to have two closed lunch sessions, but to keep under review in case the second one is not needed in the end.

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- **Invitation to the President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.** The President should be invited and provided with an opportunity, on behalf of the hosting organisation (RCOG) to welcome those participating in the Board and associated meetings.
- **Observers.** The EC noted that considerably more observers are being invited to this Board meeting, as compared to any other in the past. It will therefore be important to provide clarity to the observers about what their role will be during the Board meeting, i.e. what sessions are closed to the observers, when the observers might be able to contribute to the debate, etc.
- **Panel speakers, Item 4.** Currently the panel is very Africa focused, with two participants from Zimbabwe. The Secretariat to consider opportunities for greater balance.
- **Strategic Framework.** The most important item at the Board meeting will be to discuss and agree on the new PMNCH Strategic Framework. As such, more time should be provided for this item, with time for other items on the Agenda kept more flexible (see below comments on Governance Review).
- **Governance review.** This process will take place after the Strategic Framework has been discussed and discussions at the Board should be focused on the Strategic Framework. The proposed governance review process paper will be discussed at the next EC meeting and could be shared with the Board.
- **Item 8 – Thematic breakout sessions.** The item on thematic breakout sessions needs to be kept flexible, as it may be better for this time to be used to discuss the Strategic Framework in a plenary setting or for it to be replaced with Board discussions on other issues that will affect the Strategic Framework, including the Global Strategy Accountability Working Group paper, Global Financing Facility, etc.
- **Item 11 – Board Self-Assessment.** The Board self-assessment questionnaires should be given to Board members in advance to complete either over lunch or at coffee break, and so this can be removed from the Agenda as a separate item. This will create a useful baseline to contribute to the Governance Review.
- **Global Financing Facility.** There should be an opportunity for the Board to discuss the latest developments related to the establishment of the Global Financing Facility, including its proposed governance structures.

Actions:

- Update the Board Agenda to reflect comments and share with the EC again.
- Invite the President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to give a welcome address.
- Provide clarity to the observers on their roles, including when and how they are able to contribute to the discussions.

ITEM 3 – PMNCH Post-2015 Strategic Framework

The EC found the Strategic Framework document to be clear, right length, and covering the right issues. The document provides an excellent basis for the Board to discuss the strategic direction for the Partnership post-2015. It also lays the ground work for the development of a more detailed Strategic Plan later in 2015, which will draw on the findings of the Governance Review.

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Other observations included:

- **Alignment also with governments.** To note that PMNCH's efforts on alignment will also include governments, as well as all other stakeholders. As currently drafted the language could be read as too directive and needs adjusting.
- **Country engagement.** To bear in mind that, across all areas of work, it will be important to link the efforts of the Partnership with country engagement and to ensure country impact.
- **Breadth and scope.** The EC recognises that the current Strategic Framework has considerable breadth and scope, and looks forward to the introduction of a greater focus during 2015, and as part of Strategic Plan development process. The relationship with health influencing sectors requires deeper discussion.
- **Partnership and the Secretariat.** It was noted that in due course consideration will need to be given to how best to organise the delivery of individual activities, and which of these will be led by the Secretariat and which will be delivered by Partners. It was also, however, recognised that it is not helpful to impose unnecessary distinctions between the Partnership and the Secretariat, as they are intrinsically linked and work together towards set objectives.
- **Accountability.** The overall global health accountability processes, and the Partnership's role within them, is yet to be defined and is subject to ongoing discussions. As such, the Strategic Framework should not be overly prescriptive at this stage about Partnership's role in accountability. It would be helpful for the Board to reflect on the proposals currently being discussed by the Global Strategy Accountability Working Group.
- **Impact.** As the Strategic Framework develops into a more detailed Strategic Plan, more detail will need to be developed on both identifying impact areas and on approaches to measuring the Partnership's impact through its activities. Currently, it would be helpful to provide some examples of the types of outputs that the Partnership's work is likely to lead to in the Impact section of the document.
- **Executive Committee presenting the Strategic Framework.** It was agreed that a member of the EC will present the Strategic Framework at the Board meeting.

Discussions on the Strategic Framework, and its broader context, also touched upon ongoing parallel discussions in relation to the development of the proposed Global Financing Facility (GFF).

The EC was informed that the GFF Oversight Group met last week, when a number of issues related to this emerging initiative were discussed, including options for its possible governance structure. It was noted that the Oversight Group was presented with two possible governance structures for the GFF, both of which touched on the role of PMNCH, and that the majority of those present on that call supported governance Option number 1. It was understood that the GFF development team is now working on elaborating the details around the proposed Option 1 for the next meeting of the GFF Oversight Group.

Very few, if any, PMNCH constituencies have had a chance to discuss the proposed GFF governance structure, given the short timeframe. As such, EC members present on this call generally expressed their own organisation's positions as opposed to those of their entire constituencies.

In its discussions, the EC noted:

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- **Representation on GFF governance bodies.** It will be important that any future GFF governance has a broad and representative constituency base, which will enable a wide range of partners to be engaged.
- **Timeframe to decision on GFF governance.** The PMNCH Executive Director was asked to convey EC's request to the GFF Oversight Group and its leadership that it would be very helpful for any final decisions on the nature and details of GFF governance are postponed until after the PMNCH Board had an opportunity to discuss this at its 20-21 April, 2015, Board meeting. The EC was assured that the meeting of the Oversight Group on 15 April, 2015, will not make any final decisions on the GFF governance.
- **PMNCH Board to discuss GFF and its governance.** The PMNCH Board should have an opportunity to discuss the GFF and related governance issues at its Board meeting in April, 2015.

Actions:

- Secretariat to update the Strategic Framework document to take account of EC comments.
- Secretariat to prepare a short brief on potential implications for PMNCH of ongoing deliberations within the global health community about the future shape of the global health architecture (e.g. Global Financing Facility and Accountability structures).
- Executive Director to convey EC's request to the GFF Oversight Group and its leadership that it would be very helpful if any final decisions on the nature and details of GFF governance are postponed until after the PMNCH Board had an opportunity to discuss this at its 20-21 April, 2015, Board meeting.

Other items

Due to lack of available time, items not covered at this meeting will be discussed at the EC meeting that is preceding the Board meeting, on 19 April, 2015, in London.