Note for the Record
PMNCH Executive Committee Meeting

19 April, 2015, Radisson Blu Portman Hotel, London, UK

PRESENT

EC Members: Graça Machel, Board Chair (GM), Flavia Bustreo, WHO (FB); Anthony Costello, Centre for International Health and Development (AC), Katie Taylor, USAID (KT); Betsy McCallon, White Ribbon Alliance (BM), Nicole Klingen, World Bank (NK); C.N. Purandare, FIGO (CNP); C.K. Mishra, Government of India (CM), Magda Robert, Advisor to the Board Chair (MR).

Apologies: Craig Friderichs, GSM Association.

Observers: Shyama Kuruvilla, WHO and Anna Gruending, WHO.

PMNCH Secretariat: Robin Gorna (RG); Andres de Francisco (AdF), Anshu Banerjee (AB), Nebojsa Novcic (NN); and Abir Shady (AS).

AGENDA

Chair: FB

ITEM 1 – Review of the action points and NfR of previous EC meeting
ITEM 2 – Governance review process
ITEM 3 – Agenda for the 16th PMNCH Board Meeting, 20-21 April, 2015, London, UK
ITEM 4 – Sustainable Development Goals Targets: Building consensus
ITEM 5 – Finance Committee report
ITEM 6 – PMNCH 2015 Workplan and budget
ITEM 7 – HCPAs project on essential interventions
ITEM 8 – Board co-Chair selection and Executive Committee Chair rotation
ITEM 9 – Update on PMNCH Membership
ITEM 10 – PMNCH Executive Director performance review process (Closed Session)
ITEM 11 – AOB

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

The action points were reviewed and the NfR from the EC meeting on 27 March, 2015, was approved, with no comments.

ITEM 2 – Governance review process

RG presented the proposed governance review, which is focused on strengthening the PMNCH governance processes and structures, as an input into the development of the full PMNCH 2016 to 2020 Strategic Plan.

The proposed governance strengthening process is expected to address several areas, including constituency-based institutional structure, Board and committees, organising and engaging with the PMNCH membership, etc., with an aim to create a fit-for-purpose Partnership structure to best deliver on its emerging aims and objectives. It is proposed that an *ad hoc* strategy group of Board members is formed to have the oversight of this process. Such a strategy group would be co-Chaired by the Board co-Chairs. The proposal for this process will be presented to the Board for approval during its 16th meeting.

The EC commended the process and made the following comments:

- **Engagement of different constituencies.** While it is agreed that the *ad hoc* strategy group is co-Chaired by the Board co-Chairs, it is important to ensure engagement/ representation from all constituencies, particularly the Partner Countries, NGOs and others.

- **Time constraint.** It has been noted that the time from now to October 2015 (the proposed time to finalize the process) is very limited to allow for completing a comprehensive governance strengthening process, which is based on substantive discussion and analysis. Therefore, the EC suggests, subject to Board discussions, to have this process potentially delivered in a number of phases, some to be delivered before October 2015 and some after that date. The discussions noted the following potential phases:

  (1) **Analysis (prior to Oct 2015).** An in-depth analysis of the current PMNCH governance and membership processes and management practices, indicating areas of strengths which could be built upon in future settings, as well as challenges that will need to be addressed in the context of the changing external environment.
  (2) **Structural recommendations (prior to Oct 2015).** Based on the analysis undertaken and reflecting the emerging broader RMNCAH architecture, the process would make recommendations on the form (governance, constituencies and membership) within the PMNCH 2016 to 2020 Strategic Plan, to ensure that the Partnership can deliver on its mandate and function post-2015.
  (3) **Procedural implementation (after Oct 2015).** Once the governance strengthening process has identified any changes, the work after Oct 2015 Board meeting would envisage agreeing the procedural details that would ensure implementation.
- **Reviving and strengthening Partnership's engagement with specific constituencies, in particular Partner Countries, Private Sector.** As part of the governance strengthening process, it is important to analyse how the Partnership can improve its engagement with certain constituencies, who are less active, as identified in the External Evaluation. One of the roles of the EC going forward will be to provide guidance on how the Partnership can better engage Partner Countries and the Private Sector, and other constituencies.
- **Definitions of constituencies.** The governance strengthening process should also address the definitions of each constituency, which if reconsidered are likely to change the dynamics and composition of individual constituencies and their inter-relationship. In particular the process should consider whether, and if so how, to establish a Youth constituency.

Actions:

- To finalise the governance strengthening process based on the EC recommendations and discussions at the Board.

ITEM 3 – Agenda for the 16th PMNCH Board Meeting, 20-21 April, 2015, London, UK

RG presented the Board agenda, logistics and choreography of the associated events and pre-Board constituency meetings. It is expected to have around 140 participants, which includes prominent speakers and a large number of observers.
The EC praised the efforts of RG and the Secretariat for the organization of this important event. The EC made the following comments:

- It is important to ensure that the expectation from each of the sessions at the Board is made clear at the start. This is particularly important for this meeting as there are many observers who may be under the impression that by the end of the Board meeting, there would be a clear indication on PMNCH's future role. However, this is the start of the conversation, and the eventual PMNCH role will be developed in light of the still emerging RMNCAH architecture post-2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the updated Global Strategy, as well as the PMNCH full strategic planning processes that will follow the Board meeting.
- While discussing the issues related to the Strategic Framework, it is important to lead the discussions to differentiate between the Partnership and the Secretariat, among other issues.

ITEM 4 – Sustainable Development Goals Targets: Building consensus

The EC discussed this item and made the following points:

- The importance of capitalizing on the PMNCH platform to build consensus around the SDG targets, and indicators, including how these relate to the updated Global Strategy.
- The Post-2015 Working Group should be re-established with refreshed membership and ToRs to review the SDG targets and indicators, and to lead on consensus building.
- The nineteen targets, mentioned in the technical paper, should be prioritized. SDG targets need to be clear, specific and measurable within an accountability system.
- Agreement around priority targets needs to be made by 5 June 2015 (timeline of the Global Strategy), followed by intensive work on the indicators.
- PMNCH should engage in the advocacy and advise on the political processes in New York.

Actions:

- Re-establish the Post-2015 Working Group with refreshed membership and ToRs to focus on consensus building around SDG targets and indicators.

ITEM 5 – Finance Committee report

NN briefed the EC on the Finance Committee (FC), its membership, ToRs and meetings. The FC met one week prior to the 16th Board meeting, when they reviewed and approved the 2014 Financial Report. The FC recommends the 2014 Financial Report for the Board's approval.

In 2014, thirteen donors funded PMNCH work, including, for the first time, a donation from the Private Sector, made by Johnson & Johnson. Budget implementation rate reached 95% to deliver the 2014 workplan.

PMNCH has a strong funding base in 2015 that meets most of its budget requirements for this year. However, it is important to note that mobilisation of additional resources is urgently needed to support the work of PMNCH as it transitions from 2015 into its new strategy in 2016. There are currently no confirmed financial resources for work in 2016, which creates significant challenges for work planning into the new year.

The EC thanked the Secretariat and its leadership for driving the transition period in 2014/ 2015, while maintaining a high implementation rate. The EC made the following comments:

- The Financial Committee could consider including the following in future Financial Reports:
  - information on fixed and variable costs, should this be possible or applicable in the context of PMNCH's work;
  - an annex listing the deliverables accomplished through the expenditure mentioned in the report, which are understood to be reflected in the respective annual workplans.
- The EC found the approximate annual budget of PMNCH workplans (USD 11-14 million) reasonable in comparison to similar partnerships.

The Board will receive the 2014 financial report, for review and approval, by email following the Board meeting.

ITEM 6 – PMNCH 2015 Workplan and Budget

The attention of the EC was drawn to the final PMNCH 2015 Workplan and budget, as well as the successful finalization of the relevant process.

ITEM 7 – HCPAs project on essential intervention

CNP presented this agenda item, where FIGO, on behalf of other HCPA implementing partners, is putting forward a request to PMNCH to fund Phase 2 of the essential interventions project (USD 400,000) in Uganda and Nepal over a two year period from June 2015 to May 2016 (year 1) and June 2016 to May 2017 (year 2). The project is entitled: "Improving the quality of maternal and newborn health care services through accelerated implementation of the Essential Interventions by the Health Care Professionals Associations". It aims to build on the phase 1 project, which was approved by the EC and therefore funded from PMNCH's 2013 workplan at USD 449,938. The project was implemented during the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, with the final report on the project shared with the EC. The funding requested from the 2015 Workplan is USD 200,000, with further funding of USD 200,000 to be considered from 2016 Workplan.

Phase 1 of the project proved successful and phase 2 will allow to solidify the accomplishments, lessons learnt and scaling up. Also, FIGO has been in contact with donors, e.g. BMGF to explore future funding opportunities.

The EC commended the efforts made in this project, particularly the importance of collaboration among the HCPAs implementing partners. The EC made the following points:

- In view of the fact that there is no currently no secured funding for PMNCH activities in 2016, it is difficult to make a commitment at this point for any funding beyond 2015. Therefore, it would only be possible to fund USD 200,000 from the current 2015 workplan.
- Sustainability of the project would not be possible without securing financial and policy commitment from local governments.
- It is important to reach out to the regional facilities and ensure service quality from the users' perspective and not only coverage as an indicator of quality.
- Project funding should be used to strengthen the advocacy capacity and to involve other constituencies.
- The PMNCH role in this project should be more to facilitate (documenting the process, successes, best practices and lessons learnt) and not to finance. This is important to respect

PMNCH's role and mandate as well as in order to allow for local ownership and sustainability.

Actions:

- PMNCH to fund phase 2 of the HCPAs essential interventions project with an amount of USD 200,000 from the 2015 workplan, and with no commitments for activities beyond 2015.

ITEM 8 – Board co-Chair selection and Executive Committee Chair rotation

FB briefed the EC on the process undertaken to select a Board co-Chair to replace her. The Board manual has been followed in this process, as well as the recommendation emerging from the Board Retreat in December 2014 to provide the opportunity to D&F constituency to put forward a candidate to the co-Chair position, given this constituency never played a role in the Board's leadership.

A selection process was carried out during which the D&Fs constituency unanimously supported the candidature of USAID. The Board was given 40 days to consider the candidate and no objections were made to this candidature. Therefore, USAID will be announced as the new Board co-Chair during the PMNCH 16th Board Meeting.

GM and other EC members thanked FB for her relentless work, support and efforts in her engagement with the EC and the Board in delivering PMNCH's strategy and workplans.

ITEM 9 – Update on PMNCH Membership

The EC members were alerted to the Update Report on new PMNCH Membership for the first quarter of 2015, which was circulated among the EC meeting background documents.

ITEM 10 – PMNCH Executive Director performance review process (Closed Session)

Due to lack of available time, the performance review process of the PMNCH Executive Director will be covered during the closed Board session on the second day of the Board Meeting, 21 April.

ITEM 11 – AOB

The meeting was concluded and no other business was raised.