Note for the Record
PMNCH Executive Committee (EC) Meeting
Sandton Sun Hotel, Johannesburg, 29 June, 2014

PRESENT

EC Members: Flavia Bustreo, WHO (FB); Diane Jacovella, Canada (DJ); Naida Pasion, Save the Children (NP); José Belizán, Institute of Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy (JB); Craig Friderichs, GSM Association (CF); Frances Day-Stirk, International Confederation of Midwives (FD);

PMNCH Secretariat: Carole Presern (CP); Andrés de Francisco (ADF); Nebojsa Novcic (NN) and Abir Shady (AS)

Observers: Francesco Aureli, Save the Children (FA); Geoff Black, Canada (GB);

Apologies: Mr C.K. Mishra (India), Rafael Cortez (World Bank), Sabaratnam Arulkumaran (FIGO)

AGENDA

Chair: Flavia Bustreo

- ITEM 1 – Review of previous meeting NfR
- ITEM 2 – Financing and governance
    - Board Meeting – feedback from constituencies' meetings
    - Rotation of PMNCH Board members and co-Chairs. Categorizing PMNCH members under certain constituencies
    - Membership report
    - Board self-assessment
- ITEM 3 – PMNCH External Evaluation Report
- ITEM 4 – AOB

1. Review and approval of NfR from the EC call on 5 June, 2014

The note for the record was approved by all members.

2. Financing and governance

- Board Meeting – feedback from constituencies' meetings.

Private Sector

CF reported on the private sector constituency meeting, explaining that this constituency is growing significantly. There are currently fourteen commitments from the private sector towards ENAP, particularly in the areas of innovation, services, and result-based financing. There is strong focus on implementation of MDGs in the remaining period up to 2015.

CP indicated that Mrs Machel was very impressed by the harmony within the private sector constituency rather than competitions, which would definitely render positive results at regional and country levels.

HCPAs/ARTs

The constituency discussed three main points during its meeting: the PMNCH External Evaluation, the post-2015 agenda, and improving the constituency's engagement with PMNCH.

1. **PMNCH External Evaluation**, Constituency Board members provide feedback on the evaluation from the HCPA, ART perspective.
2. **Post-2015 Agenda**, to consider PMNCH's strategic focus, and the role of the HCPA/ART constituency:
   - Expanding the focus beyond maternal and child survival to child development, adolescent health and links with non-communicable and communicable diseases
   - In the SDGs, there is a Health Goal and a separate Nutrition Goal and there is potential to strengthen these linkages. Emphasize the need for an Equity focus.
   - Health information systems especially in developing indicators e.g. for quality of care, to monitor particular Neonatal resuscitation is not captured in the ENAP indicators which are quite broad
   - Evidence to support quality improvement and changing behaviours
   - Include political analysis, policy science and implementation research
3. **Improving constituency engagement and coordination**.
   - Organize a meeting of the constituency to a) define the value-added of the constituency working in partnership, b) identify priorities or projects for collaboration, and c) adopt modes of collaboration, including to identify existing institutional mechanisms.
   - To identify priorities or projects, the constituency could:
     - Ask the other PMNCH constituency groups what their evidence needs are
     - Discuss within the constituency and other groups what the main evidence might be related to
     - Meet to discuss which of these evidence needs and challenges are feasible to meet and would need to be met by working in partnership
   - Develop a concept note and proposal for funding to ensure that both the projects and process of constituency engagement are adequately resourced.

NGOs

NP and FA briefed the EC members on the NGOs meeting, which was attended by seventy participants and Mrs Graça Machel. The discussions revolved around how to accelerate implementation and advocacy for the MDG`s, how to better work together, and what role will PMNCH play post 2015. It was agreed that a stronger engagement the constituency members is critically essential. There is also a need for accountability and mobilising the youth. A decision is needed around the governance of the youth constituency whether as an independent constituency or being involved in the present PMNCH seven constituency. Looking ahead towards the global development arena post-2015 PMNCH needs to review its current constituencies and whether it would be essential to reach out to other sectors, e.g. human rights among others.

In recognition of the large number of the NGOs constituency members and the need to strengthen the NGOs role at country and regional levels, the process to select a regional focal point (RFP) for Africa and Asia is being finalized.

D&Fs

DJ presented the outcomes of the D&Fs constituency meeting. She emphasised the need to include new donors, e.g. Korea, Germany and the Islamic Development Bank. The constituency members discussed preparations for the Board discussions, accountability and the post-2015 development agenda, particularly the PMNCH model, as well as whether goals or targets are more suitable for the new development agenda. Several members indicated that they did not have access to the evaluation report or that the time is too short to provide substantial feedback during the Board meeting.

Multilaterals

The discussions included that there time is too short to review the external evaluation report and it is important to agree on a process to respond to the evaluation. Also, the group discussed PMNCH's role within the process of development of the post-2015 goals.

It was agreed that it is important to strengthen the multilateral constituency through more regular meetings and to have a consensus around the criteria for membership of this constituency (is this linked to the membership of some organizations not UN Agencies? If so, specify).

- Rotation of PMNCH Board members and co-Chairs. Categorizing PMNCH members under certain constituencies

CP briefed the EC members about the bylaws concerning Board members terms, renewal and rotation process. The Secretariat inform the constituencies' chairpersons of the relevant members who would be rotating off the Board (would it be useful to add to the notes?) end of this year and the process that needs to be initiated in this regard. She emphasised the importance of maintain a geographic and gender balance among Board members.

- Membership report.

CP presented a membership report covering the period from January 2013 till June 2014. The report provides an overview on PMNCH membership progress, particularly in light of the consistent efforts to strengthen and simplify the membership process. The document also provides some proxy indicators on partners' engagement, along with a few recommendations to further enhance PMNCH membership and partner-centric approach.

The EC commended the efforts of the Secretariat in this regard and noted the increasing number of members of the Partnership. However, there is a need for the Secretariat to reach out to different members to accurately identify the most active ones and find means to increase engagement from the vast majority of members not currently engaged.

- Board self-assessment

CP referred to the governance section of the evaluation report and highlighted the need for the Board to carry out a process of self-assessment as a means for ongoing monitoring and improvement of the Board's performance. In this context, CP presented a proposed questionnaire that is based on similar assessments carried out by other organizations. The EC found this suggestion positive and agreed to include the Board self-assessment as an element of the Board feedback on the governance section of the evaluation report. The EC would like to review the questionnaire in detail and further discuss in the forthcoming EC teleconference.

Actions:

- To further discuss the need to strengthen youth involvement in PMNCH and whether a separate constituency needs to be formed for this group or to involve the youth in the current constituencies.
- The Secretariat to inform the constituencies' Board representatives of members due to rotate off the Board by end of 2014.
- The Secretariat to include the Board self-assessment as part of the Board's response to the external evaluation report and to have it as an agenda item in the next EC call.

3. PMNCH External Evaluation Report

FB passed to Canada (DJ and GB) chairing for the Evaluation of PMNCH Agenda item, given potential conflict of interest that she has as: (i) representative of WHO, as the hosting organization of PMNCH; and (ii) former Executive Director of PMNCH, including for a period included in the evaluation.

GB provided an overview of the evaluation report to the EC, noting the main strengths, challenges, and recommendations that were included.

It was noted:

- The EC and the Board had very limited, and therefore insufficient, time to review the evaluation report prior to the Board meeting.
- The report, as currently presented, recommends a number of new studies to be undertaken by the Partnership as a follow up to the recommendations.
- Among the studies suggested the RMNCH landscape analysis is probably the most questionable in terms of its appropriateness, given the limited resources that the Partnership has at its disposal.
- It is important for the report to make it very clear that this is not an evaluation of the Secretariat, but of the entire partnership. This is something that should be reiterated at the Board meeting.
- The report notes that the Partnership needs to be more relevant at country level, but it should also be made clear that the Partnership was never meant to be a 'new institution' that operates in countries. This debate should be brought out more in the report.

DJ finally suggested that the EC in its discussions might consider the following questions: (i) Are these the right recommendations?; (ii) Are they feasible?; and (iii) Are the right stakeholders recommended to undertake them?

The EC agreed with the Chair that it is unexpected and questionable that most of the recommendations ask for further analysis work to be done. Those present were not convinced that Partnership's limited resources and time between now and the end of 2015 would be best used for much more introspective analysis. The focus of the Partnership should be on supporting the efforts of countries, and its members more broadly, in achieving the MDGs in the last 550 days.

FB suggested that the Board should consider the process for taking the recommendations forward, and the timelines for responding to the evaluation. She also noted that from her perspective, WHO welcomes the recommendation that there should be a review of the hosting arrangement for PMNCH; this is done in any case at every renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding, with the next one being in November 2014.

CF noted that the evaluation brought out some interesting points, but that the private sector constituency would have welcomed a more detailed proposal by the consultants on what the Partnership's short, medium, and long term actions and goals should be in the context of these findings.

In general, the Committee noted that it is important to focus on those aspects of the analysis and findings deemed useful for further planning at the Partnership. It also noted that the evaluation report is one of a number of other important inputs into these planning processes.

The Committee will continue to consider how the Partnership should continue to build on good progress made towards increasing the engagement of members in the work of PMNCH. In this context, it further noted that need to continue to strengthen the partner centric approach, find ways in which partners can take more responsibility for delivering the work of the Partnership, and ensure that the resources available at the Secretariat are used in the most effective manner through a strong gate-keeping process.

The Committee recognised that only Board members received the evaluation report, and not all members of respective constituencies. Once the Board has had an opportunity to discuss the report, the Committee recommends that the evaluation report is shared with all the Partnership members together with a cover note that will among other things state that "At the time of sharing the report, the Board has not yet had an opportunity to review and analyse the content in detail, and therefore is not in a position at this stage to endorse or accept the report's findings and recommendations."

In setting the next steps out, the Committee recommended that the Secretariat arranges for the consultants to present the report to the Board the evening before the actual meeting (i.e. in the evening of Tuesday, 01 July, 2014). This will enable the Board members to internalise the findings overnight and have an opportunity to discuss them among each other.

Actions:

- The Secretariat to arrange for the evaluation consultants to present the report to the Board the evening before the actual meeting.
- the evaluation report will be shared with all the Partnership members together with the cover as stated above

5. AOB

No other business was raised by the EC members.

FB thanked everyone and the EC meeting ended.