

Board Meeting, 15 November 2010 - Delhi, India. Note for the Record

Chaired by Julio Frenk
Co-chairs Ann Starrs and Vinod Paul

Welcome and Introduction by Mrs Sujatha Rao (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

Mrs Sujatha Rao expressed deep gratitude on behalf of the Minister and congratulated the Board for the work of PMNCH and a successful Partners Forum, and highlighted the following points:

- Timing of the Forum was crucial after the launch of the Global Strategy, the Forum has given immediate continuity to the issue, keeping attention and placing PMNCH as an important platform for MNCH, and giving the Partnership a crucial role.
- Achieving MDGs 4 & 5 is of crucial importance to India - PMNCH should continue to work with India to help raise awareness in the country, to work with India grassroots organizations to advance the cause and to link these experiences with global programmes.
- There is work to do to raise awareness amongst Indian national media.

Address by the Chair

In his address, Julio Frenk set the context of the meeting, mentioning the unprecedented level of commitments for MNCH with the launch of the Global Strategy and the central convening role played by the Partnership. He also mentioned the importance of translating the pledges into action, working closely current and new partners and using innovation for health and its global governance. He highlighted his personal commitment to this issue and in his professional career as well.

Welcome to new Board Members and observers. Flavia Bustreo mentioned that she would be indicating when she is speaking as Director of the Partnership and when she does it as WHO Board Member representative.

Co-chair Vinod Paul summarized outcomes of the Forum, highlighting it brought a shift, and focus to issues of equity, health systems and human resources for MNCH, as well as attention to integration and intersectoral collaboration for health. Need to position PMNCH in the context of the UN Global Strategy and build alliances in the next four years

It was highlighted that one of the media roundtable discussions agreed to have an India Lancet series in January, to work on raising awareness nationally.

Item 2 - Note for the Record 8 Board Meeting (Dhaka) and Agenda 9 Board Meeting

Decisions Approved with no comments

Item 3 - Report from the Director (Flavia Bustreo)

The presentation was to be followed bearing in mind the implementation report distributed beforehand to the Board Members, which presented the progress of all PAs following the 2009-2011 Strategic Framework and Workplan.

Discussion

Comments were made regarding the opportunity for the Partnership to continue moving towards a truly partner-centric approach, involving and engaging wider membership beyond the Board members, particularly with partners from the South. The need for countries to work with national partners following the partnership's constituency model was mentioned. Meanwhile, the Partnership should continue to advance the work at the global level, using its budget to continue to mobilize resources, focusing on the added value aspects. It was highlighted that about half the PMNCH membership had participated at the Forum and that more funding for travel would be necessary to bring more partners, given the high number of NGO partners. It was also highlighted



that during the last year, many partners not on the Board have worked on the Workplan activities, particularly in the advocacy area. She thanked the Secretariat for the work towards the Partners Forum.

Item 4 - PMNCH Workplan and Budget for 2011 (Ann Starrs and Zulfiqar Bhutta)

Ann and Zulfiqar gave a brief overview of the process and the critical issues for discussion, then invited PA leaders to give short highlights of each PA: PA 1: Sadia Chowdhury; PA2: Liz Mason; PA3: Mickey Chopra; PA4: André Lalonde; PA5: Helga Fogstad/Ann Starrs; PA6: Mickey Chopra.

It was mentioned the 2011 workplan includes to the extend possible, actions following MNCH focused 2010 events, and it was also mentioned that should upcoming developments have a significant budget implications, the EC will discuss them before submitting a recommendation to the Board.

Discussion:

There was general agreement that the 2011 Workplan should have flexibility given that the next steps for the Global Strategy are not yet defined and PMNCH will definitely be part of the follow-up actions. Board Members agreed that the critical issues which were presented need to be addressed, and that the retreat is an opportunity to do so. The issues identified are:

Strategy issues for preparation for/discussion at the retreat:

- Prepare carefully for the retreat, including mapping of actors currently engaged in Global Strategy at global and regional levels.
- Define PMNCH's role in the Global Strategy
- Discuss proposal of establishing/supporting national level mechanism which reflect constituency structure of PMNCH
- Identify ways to incorporate other sectors (nutrition, education, etc) in current framework
- Clarify how the Countdown fits in overall framework

Governance issues:

- Responsiveness/engagement/diversity of full membership
- Decision about current PA structure

It was noted that despite having to discuss PMNCH's positioning at the retreat, some critical decisions will be made between now and the retreat and we should engage in the discussions straight away.

Decisions The Workplan and budget for 2011 was approved, with the following points to note:

- It's a rolling Workplan with flexibility for changes in 2011 on strategic planning and prioritization based on Global Strategy
- Review PA1 to PA4 in light of the Global Strategy and look for linkages across the PAs
- PA Leaders for 5 & 6 will lead the follow-up discussion on PMNCH role related to the Global Strategy and the accountability work between now and the retreat in Feb/March next year They will inform and involve the full Board.

The issues mentioned above will be discussed at the retreat.

Item 5 - Proposed process for Workplan 2012-2015 development (Purnima Mane)

Discussion:

It was noted that the Retreat was extremely important to determine the strategic direction and position the Partnership for the next stretch to 2015, focusing in the value added of activities and bearing in mind the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health. The timing for the retreat is very short. It was asked of Secretariat and Board Members to prepare necessary discussion papers before the retreat in order to be able to have the strategic discussions and take decisions.

Focus on strategic direction (also governance and other issues).

Decision: The general process as presented in the document (including timeliness) was endorsed.

On the Retreat:

- 2.5 days (2 full working days) , secretariat to explore dates (tentatively the week of 7 February / 1 March)

- External facilitation
- Participation of new Director, outgoing and incoming Board Members, PA leaders and The World Economic Forum as representative of the private sector

Item 6- Finance Committee Report (André Lalonde for Finance Committee)

Hard copies of the presentation were distributed.

Discussion:

Considering current funds in hand and the remainder of the World Bank grant to be paid in 2011 (conditional to good performance), the 2011 budget is close to 100% covered.

There was a request to reflect in the financial report the partners' in-kind contributions.

Decisions: Finance report was approved.

6.1 Conflict of interest paper

André Lalonde presented the paper developed by the Secretariat (working with the WHO Office of the Legal Council) which expanded "option C" from the paper presented at the Dhaka Board Meeting, with implications of creating an Independent Ad-Hoc Advisory Group (IAAG). Following a meeting and review of the Executive Committee previous to the Board Meeting, it was requested that an "alternative option" (reinforcing the Finance Committee with non-Board members) to the IAAG should be presented to the Board, so this option was added to the presentation.

Discussion:

There was general agreement that the proposed IAAG was too heavy for its purpose and would represent too high transaction costs. Despite the decision in Dhaka to explore this option, the Board wanted a "lighter touch", and the alternative option of adding independent members to the Finance Committee was the option preferred. There were suggestions of language revision to the paper (ie. use WHO rules and regulations), it was also suggested to make the distinction between allocating funding to Board Members to facilitate PA work (which is legitimate) versus allocating funding for the implementation of activities in the PA (which should be awarded competitively).

Decisions: Revise the paper taking into account considerations mentioned above, expanding on the "alternative option".

Peter Colenso and Cristián Baeza will lead the revision

TIMELINE: Before the end of the year

CLOSED BOARD SESSION - KEY DECISIONS

Selection process for the new Director: Board Members were informed of the process of selection and agreed on a recommendation to make an offer to one of the candidates so the selection and recruitment process can be finalized.

Item 7 - PMNCH engagement with the Private Sector (AI Bartlett)

The main messages from the background document were presented, making the link to the discussions, recommendations and request from the last Board Meeting. The objective of the presentation and the discussion was to present the principles that would guide PMNCH's collaboration with the private sector for approval, and suggest two potential pathways to officialise PMNCH's engagement with the private sector.

Board members had received copies of a draft paper presenting PMNCH principles of engagement with the private sector which were presented for endorsement.

Discussion

The general agreement was that the engagement with the private sector had already started (particularly during the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health) and therefore the engagement should continue (not a question of "if" but of "how").

There was a general agreement on the principles, a modification was requested to add "no conflict of interest" and "due diligence" as two additional principles.

On the pathway to engagement, the fast track option was preferred, however it was suggested that the Secretariat presents a paper on what mechanism could be used, whether it is through the addition of a constituency or another mechanism, before agreeing that adding a constituency is the only way. To add the private sector thinking into the retreat discussions, it was agreed that the WEF, as an umbrella organization, will be invited to participate.

Decisions Agreed to continue engagement

Approved the following principles:

- i. Strategic alignment with PMNCH mission and priority actions
- ii. Value added
- iii. Independence and impartiality
- iv. No endorsement and no exclusivity
- v. Transparency
- vi. No conflict of interest
- vii. Due diligence

Secretariat to do a paper on practical next steps, and specific procedure for a decision during the retreat.

Secretariat to work on actual and potential companies to engage on in detail.

Item 8 - Board Rotation (Vinod Paul)

The following changes were communicated:

NGOs: FCI and BRAC rotate off after election of new representatives (selection process described and approved by the constituency)

HCP: FIGO: André Lalonde rotates off – Pius Okong new representative

ICM: Bridget Lynch will finish her stipulated maximum term at the Spring 2011 Board meeting. However, she announced she would remain until the end of 2011

ART: Maternal expert: José M. Belizán just joined the Board

Child expert: Jane Schaller rotates off after current Board Meeting, election will take place previous to the 2011 Spring Board.

This constituency communicated that they leave to each Representative to select their own alternate from same or different organization.

Donors/Foundations:

Three donor countries (France, Australia and Canada) had expressed strong interest in joining the Board, the constituency met on 12 November and agreed on the following rotation:

End 2010: Norway rotates off and will be replaced by France

Spring 2011: USAID rotates off and will be replaced by Australia (AusAID)

Fall 2011: Sweden rotates off and will be replaced by Canada (CIDA).

Developing country:

Nigeria and India continue on the Board, and Nigeria will lead the work to strengthen the country constituency, with a view to strengthen membership, Board participation and links to the Global Strategy implementing countries.

Tanzania remains on Board (not able to come due to elections)

There is one seat vacant, current thought is to include a country from LAC

Other issues discussed and for information:

- Rotation in Board Membership impact on the Executive Committee
- Donors- Sweden will replace USAID at the EC
- Calls for nomination for co-Chair will be issued shortly

Summary of Decisions

Presented by Andrés de Francisco and described under the relevant sections in these minutes.

AOB

Co-Chair Vinod Paul thanked outgoing Board members and invited different members of the Board to say a few words about them before inviting them to share a few words.

Zulfiqar Bhutta for departing member André Lalonde, Mickey Chopra for Helga Fogstad, Chok-wan Chan for Jane Schaller, Sadjia Chowdhury for Afsana Kaosar, Purnima Mane for Ann Starrs. The Chair also thanked Flavia Bustreo for her role as Director and welcomed her as a new Board Member.

MEETING CLOSES

Full list of Documents on PMNCH's website:

http://www.who.int/pmnch/about/steering_committee/boardmeeting_101115/en/index.html

ORGANIZATION	REPRESENTATIVE	ALTERNATE
Chair	Julio Frenk	
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	France Donnay	---
BRAC	---	Kaasar Afsana
CARE	---	Christine Galavotti
DFID	Peter Colenso	Julia Bunting
Expert, Child Health	Jane Schaller	Sverre O Lie
Expert, Maternal Health	José M. Belizán	---
Expert, Newborn Health	Vinod Paul	---
Family Care International	Ann Starrs	Debra Jones
Government of India	---	Mr. P.K.Pradhan
Government of Nigeria	Prof C.O.O. Chukwu	Nkeiru Onuekwusi
Health Alliance International	Mary Anne Mercer	---
Intern'l Confederation of Midwives	Bridget Lynch	---
Intern'l Federation of Obs/ Gyn	André Lalonde	---
International Pediatric Association	Zulfiqar Butta	Dr Chok-wan Chan
Norway	Helga Fogstad	---
Sweden/SIDA	Anders Nordström	---
UNFPA	Purnima Mane	Laura Laski
UNICEF	Mickey Chopra	---
USAID	Al Bartlett	---
WHO	Flavia Bustreo	Liz Mason & Lale Say
World Bank	Cristián Baeza	Sadia Chowdhury

Others: Observers

Anurita Bains, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Anar Mamdani, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Geoff Black, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Annick Mathis, French Government

PMNCH Secretariat

Flavia Bustreo
Andrés de Francisco
Tammy Farrell
Shyama Kuruvilla
Lori McDougall
Marta Seoane
Consultant - Nebojsa Novcic (Cambridge Economic Policy Associates, CEPA)