



## **11<sup>th</sup> PMNCH Board Meeting – 25 & 26 October 2011**

Paris, France

Centre de Conférences Ministériel

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

27 rue de la Convention, 75732 Paris Cedex 15

### **8:15-8:30am WELCOME REMARKS BY PMNCH BOARD CHAIR**

Good morning and welcome to the 11th Meeting of the Board of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health. I would first of all like to thank M. Christian MASSET, Directeur général, Direction générale de la mondialisation, du développement et des partenariats, Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs, France for joining us to open the board meeting.

And also the French representatives on the Board, Gustavo González-Canali and Gilles Landrison, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, for hosting us and the warm welcome to Paris. Knowing the heavy responsibilities that they have had this year,



with the G8 and the imminent G20 meeting, their efforts are doubly appreciated.

A lot of work has gone into the preparation of this Board meeting, and now is the time to share and reflect on some of the recent accomplishments of PMNCH, but also to look forward to the next phase. Our main objectives today are to review and approve the Partnership's Workplan for 2012, as well as reach an agreement on some key substantive issues in the work of PMNCH.

This is an important Board meeting also because, as we agreed on the Partnership's engagement with the private sector at our last meeting, today we warmly welcome to the Board representatives of the new private sector constituency (*acknowledge Naveen Rao from 'Merck for Mothers'*). The private sector is a crucial player in the collective effort to improve women and children's health worldwide. Following the Board's decision

to open a private sector constituency, the Secretariat worked closely with the Executive Committee and the Legal Department of WHO to ensure due diligence in the processing of applications. This work made it possible for the new constituency to participate in our deliberations today. We have much to learn from each other, and we are hoping that this addition will bring some added vibrancy to our collective efforts.

There have been significant developments in the global health arena since our last Board meeting on June 1 and 2 in Geneva, to discuss the Partnership's Strategic Framework for 2012-2015. PMNCH has continued working on its 2011 Workplan, while drafting the Workplan for 2012, and in addition supporting the UN Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health and the Commission for Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health.



I would like to emphasize the great prominence that the issue of improving women's and children's health is continuing to have this year. The major *Every Woman Every Child* events which took place on 20 September at the UN in New York to mark the one-year anniversary of the launch of the Global Strategy, as well as the new commitments to the Strategy announced then, demonstrate that more players are coming into the effort, and that there is significant momentum still for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health outcomes. Both events convened heads of state and government officials, as well as high-level representatives from the various stakeholder groups involved in the Global Strategy. The participation of the private sector is an exciting development in this effort. I was glad to learn that significant interest has been expressed in engaging in the Partnership's private sector constituency.

- As many of you who were there know, the main UN event in September was hosted by the UN Secretary-General. The event focused on: 1. Commitment to action – heads of state level; 2. Accountability for resources and results; 3. Game changers and innovation – the final panel discussion, in which I participated. The members of the Expert Review Group on the Commission on Information and Accountability follow up were also announced. Respecting their independence, of course, we're nonetheless delighted that some of them have strong connections with PMNCH - our very own Zulfi Bhutta is on the panel, as is Dr Carmen Barroso of Brazil, from IPPF, our newest Board member. Joy Phumaphi, one of my predecessors in this seat, will co-chair with Richard Horton<sup>1</sup>.

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- <sup>1</sup> Dr Carmen Barroso of Brazil - Director, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) Western Hemisphere Region)
- Dr Zulfiqar Bhutta of Pakistan - Professor and Founding Chair of the Division of Women and Child Health, Aga Khan University, Karachi
- Dr Richard Horton of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - Editor of the Lancet
- Dr Dean Jamison of the United States of America - Professor, School of Public Health, University of Washington
- Mrs Joy Phumaphi of Botswana - Executive Secretary of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance - ALMA

- A reception hosted by Ray Chambers followed, convening about 400 participants. Both events succeeded in keeping the momentum by showcasing the commitments made in the context of the Global Strategy, as well as in generating important new commitments from the private sector, governments, NGOs, multi-stakeholder initiatives, and many partners. Now the rubber really hits the road, and implementation and results will be the key theme, for this meeting, and going forward.

At the events in New York, I also flagged the Commitment presented by PMNCH itself, as well as another of the Partnership's landmark achievements since the last Board meeting - the PMNCH 2011 Report on Analysing Commitments to Advance the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health.

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- Dr Marleen Temmerman of Belgium - Senator and Professor, University of Ghent
  - Dr Miriam Were of Kenya - Global Health Workforce Alliance



The Partnership committed to transforming into action the pledges made to the Global Strategy. With its network of more than 400 members, collaborating through its seven constituency groups, PMNCH will aim to promote shared principles for advocacy, action and accountability; to play a central role in the operationalising the *Every Woman Every Child* effort, as well as in the workplan of the follow up to the Commission for Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health. We will hear more about progress from the Commission's follow up work later this morning, and we will discuss the role of PMNCH in the outreach for the Independent Expert Review Group.

I will also take a moment to talk about the PMNCH 2011 Report which was distributed at the events in New York. The Report was developed to put some flesh onto the bones of the 2010 commitments, and to be a useful reference point for 'new committers', to mobilize even more resources and collective effort

for RMNCH. It analyzes commitments to the Global Strategy to date and describes in detail many of the financial, policy and service-delivery commitments presented last year.

According to the Report's conclusions, support and commitment to the Global Strategy has been unprecedented: one hundred and twenty-seven stakeholders made commitments in less than a year, totalling more than US\$41 billion, in addition to significant policy and service-delivery commitments. Low-income countries, in other words - the most affected countries, made the most commitments (39) to the Global Strategy, and the Report affirms that their commitments are crucial to this effort. The commitments were focused on reaching people with the services they need, health workers, advancing human rights, and increasing coverage of interventions. Collaborating on the effort of the Global Strategy presents opportunities for engaging new stakeholders and sectors; increasing the participation of middle-income countries and the business community; bridging the



funding gap; ensuring value for money; building on existing plans and processes; and using innovation to catalyze progress.

It became evident once again at the events in New York that this partnership, as well as continued collaboration and innovation in the ways we operate are crucial for bringing about change in the RMNCH landscape around the world. Innovation and collaboration with different stakeholders are at the center of the Partnership's strategy for 2012-2015.

PMNCH will aim to be at the centre of innovation, will foster integration and will work inclusively, and collaboratively with a broad group of stakeholders. We all want to see results, fast, and I hope our discussions here will take us further on that route.

**WELCOME TO THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

We have a full room, with large participation, and I would like to thank all of you for being here.

Please join me in warmly welcoming the new Board members:

- We welcome Australia to the Board, and we are pleased that Benedict David, Principal Health Adviser at AusAID, is here today.
- We also welcome Frances Day-Stirk in her absence, the new president of ICM, who replaces Bridget Lynch. Nester Moyo Frances' alternate is with us today, representing ICM.
- We also welcome Mr Tewodros Melesse, Director-General of IPPF to the NGO Board seat. His nomination by the NGO constituency was announced just over a week ago, and thus, Mr Melesse regrets that he can't join us today, due to a scheduling conflict. Jennifer Woodside is here to represent IPPF.
- We thank Peter Colenso, formerly from DFID, for his dedication and support of our work, and we welcome Julia



Bunting (who is also Chair of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition), as she takes on the PMNCH Board seat, with Will Nibblet of DFID serving as alternate.

Finally, a warm welcome to all our observers, it's always risky just to single out one, but I would like to mention the Inter-Parliamentary Union, represented here by Mr Martin Cheogong. PMNCH and IPU have been collaborating closely, and there are some exciting developments that you will hear about later - we appreciate your participation today and we hope that there will be many opportunities for collaboration between the Partnership and the organizations which you represent.

I would now like to invite brief introductions around the table for the names and organizations of the participating Board members, alternates and observers before we get started.

**INTRODUCTIONS FOLLOW**

As I said, our main focus in the next day and a half will be the 2012 PMNCH Workplan & Budget. We will hear presentations from Nigeria, Tanzania, and India on the latest developments in RMNCH, update on commitments, and country progress in the context of the one-year anniversary of the Global Strategy. Among the other topics we will discuss are the challenges and opportunities for PMNCH in the current RMNCH landscape, expanding the Partnership and working with the private sector, the consensus on the essential packages of interventions, the paper commissioned by PMNCH on strengthening the global aid architecture for RMNCH, success factors and progress on MDGs 4 & 5, as well as governance.

## **APPROVALS**

First, as a Board, we have to review and approve:

- The Note for the Record of the 10th PMNCH Board Meeting  
(Geneva, Switzerland)



I invite you to share any comments or questions you may have on this document before we approve it.