22 April 2021

Executive Memo

Overview, objectives and questions for reflection

PMNCH Executive Committee Meeting, 05 May 2021

This Executive Memo provides an overview of the issues to be discussed at PMNCH’s Executive Committee (EC) Meeting, 05 May 2021, and provides guidance on any decisions to be made.

The EC meeting will be focused on the following two substantive issues:

- **Governance reform status and Phase 2 and Phase 3 nominations.** Updating the EC on the implementation of the PMNCH Governance Reform process to date, presenting nominations received for Phase 2 (Working Groups and Committees) and Phase 3 (Board), and seeking EC’s approval for the recommendations, thus finalizing the reform process.

- **Call to Action commitment mobilization and the “Lives in the Balance 3” meeting.** The EC is asked to review the commitment mobilization work undertaken to date; advise on future directions (i.e., for the next round of commitment mobilization for September 2021, tied to the next PMNCH Accountability Breakfast on the side of the UN General Assembly), and consider the proposed Agenda in May 2021 for the Lives in the Balance 3 meeting.

The EC is invited to preview PMNCH’s new website ([www.pmnch.org](http://www.pmnch.org)) and to send their comments through this form. Final touches are now being prepared for the public launch of the website in mid May 2021. Your early feedback is warmly encouraged for the Secretariat’s notice and action. If any questions, please contact the Secretariat’s Digital Communications Team Lead, Mijail Santos ([msantos@who.int](mailto:msantos@who.int)).

This Executive Memo is issued in conjunction with the draft EC Agenda to assist EC participants by: (i) describing and contextualizing the issue to be discussed; and (ii) highlighting opportunities for decision points.

1. **Agenda Item 1**

Approval of draft Agenda

EC members are requested to review and approve the attached Agenda for the meeting.

Approval of two EC Notes for the Record from meetings on: (i) 24 February 2021; and (ii) 16 March 2021

EC members are asked to review and approve the Note for the Record (NfR) from the two most recent EC meetings – a substantive meeting on 24 February 2021 and a follow-up, ad-hoc EC meeting on 16 March
2021 focused on commitment mobilization for the PMNCH Call to Action on COVID-19.

The decisions from both meetings, chaired by Darren Welch of the Government of the UK, were shared the day after the meetings. No requests for updates or changes have been received since then from EC members. All actions recorded in the NFRs have been delivered or are under development, as set out in the monitoring of actions documents for each of the two meetings.

**Document(s) for the meeting**

- EC-05-2021; 01a, Agenda, May 2021
- EC-05-2021; 01b, Exec Memo, May 2021
- EC-05-2021; 01c, Draft EC NFR, Feb 2021
- EC-05-2021; 01d, Draft EC NFR, Mar 2021
- EC-05-2021; 01e, Monitoring of actions, Feb 2021
- EC-05-2021; 01f, Monitoring of actions, Mar 2021

**Decision(s)**

For approval:

- May 2021 Draft EC Agenda.
- EC NFR, Feb 2021 and Mar 2021, noting actions undertaken as planned or in progress.

2. **Agenda Item 2 – Governance reform status and Phase 2 and Phase 3 nominations**

The findings of PMNCH’s independent External Evaluation (January 2020) recommended a process of governance reform to increase the efficiency and efficacy of our systems. In addition, the Evaluation recommended that the governance and Secretariat structures should be fully aligned with the priorities emerging from the PMNCH 2021-2025 Strategy. Consequently, PMNCH’s Governance & Nominations Committee – now known as the Governance and Ethics Committee (GEC) – having undertaken a robust, consultative process of research and analysis, presented its proposal to the PMNCH Board at its meeting on 14 and 15 December 2020 in a paper entitled “Harnessing the Power of Partnership in a Digital Era – Reimagining governance, partner engagement, and operations to deliver on the 2021 to 2025 Strategy”.

The Board approved the overall proposal (Item 5, in “EC-03-2021; 01e, Draft Board NFR, Dec 2020”), and requested from the GEC, with Secretariat support, to develop and provide a detailed reform implementation plan to be communicated to all constituency chairs and working group chairs. The GEC provided a paper on the “Proposed Governance Reform Transition Process” to the Executive Committee for consideration on 19 January 2021, which was subsequently approved on 31 January 2021.

The proposed process was structured and delivered in the following three phases:

- **Phase 1 goal:** The Constituency leadership and EC composition, to be achieved by 28 February
2021. This process was delivered, with the EC endorsing the recommendations of the GEC for constituency leadership positions and EC representation. A few leadership positions do remain to be filled across some constituencies, which will be done during the year.

- **Phase 2 goal**: Standing Committees and Working Group leadership, to be achieved by 5 May 2021, and namely for:
  
  o Governance and Ethics Committee (GEC)
  o Partner Engagement in Countries Committee (PECC)
  o Strategic Advocacy Committee (SAC)
  o Knowledge and Evidence Working Group (K&E WG)
  o Accountability Working Group (AWG)

  Committee and working group members will be appointed subsequently from nominations received.

- **Phase 3 goal**: PMNCH Board membership, to be achieved by 5 May 2021, so that all constituencies are represented on the Board in accordance with the agreed structure.

Throughout each of the three phases, the reform process has been undertaken through a fully inclusive and transparent process, with very high level of engagement from all those involved.

The EC is now being asked for its approval of nominations for Phase 2, Standing Committees and Working Groups leadership and membership, and for Phase 3, nominations for remaining Board seats.

**Document(s)**

- EC-05-2021; 02, Governance reform and nominations process, with details of nominations for Phase 2 and Phase 3

**Decision(s)**

For information and guidance:

- Update on the governance reform process.

For approval:

- Phase 2: Working groups and committee nominations
- Phase 3: Board nominations
3. Agenda Item 3: Commitments mobilization and LiB 3

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to threaten decades of progress in health and well-being for women, newborns, children and adolescents. The impact of the pandemic has magnified and exposed dangerous vulnerabilities and inequities, including exacerbating gender inequity, deepening the rift between the rich and the poor, and placing the disabled, migrants and minorities at higher risk of social and economic fallouts. In addition to suffering from the direct impact of COVID-19, women, children and adolescents have suffered from disruptions to essential health, nutrition and social services, as well as exposure to increased violence, driving up the risk of mortality and morbidity and disempowerment. As a result of the associated global recession, they are also being pushed into poverty at an alarming rate.

In this context, and on behalf of its 1,000 members, PMNCH launched a Call to Action on COVID-19 at the first Lives in the Balance meeting, co-hosted with the CORE Group in July 2020. This call outlines seven asks to protect and promote women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health during the COVID-19 crisis and serves as the basis for PMNCH’s ongoing advocacy. Since the launch of the Call to Action on COVID-19, PMNCH has worked through its partners to mobilize and highlight commitments to WCAH. In December 2020, PMNCH publicized and amplified commitments to the Call to Action from 10 countries and 1 private foundation, totaling $20.6 billion in financial commitments alone, aligning all to the seven asks in the COVID-19 Call to Action campaign. These were presented at the second Lives in the Balance meeting, on 11 December 2020, co-hosted by UHC 2030 and the CORE Group on the eve of UHC Day.

Looking ahead to the next Lives in the Balance meeting, on 17-18 May 2021, PMNCH has launched a second round of commitment mobilization efforts. In consultation with members, PMNCH developed a list of target countries for commitment mobilization. Priority countries were identified based on partner presence to lead in country advocacy, potential willingness of the government to commit (identified through partner intelligence), and alignment with relevant resource mobilization efforts (i.e., the GFF resource mobilization effort). Round 2 commitment mobilization efforts have been driven by PMNCH partners, guided by a number of strategies of the Call to Action 24-month campaign, approved by the PMNCH Board in December 2020. These include high-level champion advocacy, constituency & grassroots mobilization, and media advocacy.

Mobilizing these commitments are central to the delivery of PMNCH’s Strategy across its three objectives – namely MNCH, SRHR and Adolescents Health – and also contextualized within the overall PMNCH action on COVID-19. These are all summarized in the four short briefs:

- **Covid-19 and Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (WCAH)**
- **Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH)**
- **Adolescent Well-Being**
- **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)**

Prior to the next PMNCH Board meeting, on 17-18 May 2021, PMNCH with the CORE Group, GFF, and Gavi
will co-host third the next Lives in the Balance meeting, focusing on the theme of Equity in COVID-19 Recovery. The Summit will put a special lens on health workforce, supporting the World Health Assembly discussions in the week of 24 May and reflecting on the May 2021 launch of the State of the World’s Midwifery Report (UNFPA, ICM and WHO with partners).

The EC is asked to review the commitment mobilization work undertaken to date; advise on future directions (i.e., for the next round of commitment mobilization for September 2021, tied to the next PMNCH Accountability Breakfast on the side of the UN General Assembly), and consider the proposed Agenda in May for the Lives in the Balance 3 meeting.

**Document(s)**
- EC-05-2021; 03a, Updated LiB 3 Concept note, with the proposed Agenda

**Decision(s)**
For information and guidance:
- Update on commitments process and preparations for the LiB 3
- Inputs on Agenda and/or support for commitment mobilization

4. **Any other business**

The EC is invited to note that PMNCH’s new website is ready for preview, ahead of a formal launch in mid-May. Feedback/comments from EC members are important to this process: Comments can be submitted through this form. Further questions can be directed to the Secretariat lead for digital communications, Mijail Santos (msantos@who.int).