



Women's,  
Children's and  
Adolescents'  
Health

20 Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland  
E: [pmnch@who.int](mailto:pmnch@who.int)  
[www.pmnch.org](http://www.pmnch.org)

## Executive Memo

*Overview, objectives and questions for reflection  
PMNCH Board Meeting, 14 July 2022 (13:00-16:00 CET) and  
15 July 2022 (13:00 – 16:00)*

This Executive Memo provides an overview of the issues to be discussed at PMNCH's Board Meeting, to be held virtually on 14 July 2022 (13:00-16:00 CET) and 15 July 2022 (13:00-16:00 CET). It also provides guidance on any decisions that may need to be made.

This Board meeting will focus on four strategic opportunities for country-led action, supported by all PMNCH constituencies:

- Securing commitments for women's, children's and adolescents' (WCA) health and well-being from national, regional and global stakeholders, especially in times of the Three Cs challenge – COVID-19, Conflict, and Climate Change.
- Upholding Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights – currently in increasing turmoil.
- Galvanizing a global movement for adolescent well-being.
- Maintaining momentum on maternal, newborn and child health.

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

All relevant Board papers can be downloaded from [PMNCH's website](https://www.pmnch.org).



Women's,  
Children's and  
Adolescents'  
Health

20 Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland  
E: [pmnch@who.int](mailto:pmnch@who.int)  
[www.pmnch.org](http://www.pmnch.org)

## 14 July 2022: 29<sup>th</sup> PMNCH Board Meeting

### Item 1: Opening remarks, adoption of the Agenda and Declaration of Conflict of Interest.

Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, PMNCH Board Chair, will open the meeting, by welcoming participants. The first agenda item will also seek to approve the draft Agenda and give Board members an opportunity to declare any possible conflicts of interest.

#### 1.1 Approval of draft Agenda and Notes for the Record from previous meeting

Members are requested to review and approve the draft Agenda for the meeting, which was shared in advance (via [PMNCH's website](https://www.pmnch.org)), and approve the Note for the Record from the previous meeting.

#### 1.2 Board members declaring any conflicts of interest

This administrative aspect of the meeting will see the Board members declare any possible conflicts of interest.

#### Decision(s)

- Approve the 14 and 15 July 2022 Agenda

#### Document(s) for the meeting

- PMNCH-B29-2022; 1a, Agenda, 14 and 15 July 2022
- PMNCH-B29-2022; 1b, Executive Memo, 14 and 15 December 2022
- PMNCH-B29-2022; 1c, Note for the Record, 8 and 9 July 2021

### Item 2: Strategic Dialogue I: Protecting and promoting WCAH through securing national and global / regional commitments

This agenda item will take the format of a high-level political dialogue. The PMNCH Board Chair, Rt. Hon. Helen Clark will moderate a Board discussion, inviting in particular senior national policy makers who join the Board meeting to reflect on the main drivers for implementation of commitments made towards prioritizing women's, children's and adolescents' health and wellbeing. The Board Chair will start by sharing a short presentation, which will act as springboard for discussion.

#### Context

Decade of mortality reduction for women and children is now under threat of reversal due to the toxic combination of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change, as well as increasing political threats to uphold sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Today, one quarter of humanity - approximately [2 billion people](#) – live in humanitarian and fragile



Women's,  
Children's and  
Adolescents'  
Health

20 Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland  
E: [pmnch@who.int](mailto:pmnch@who.int)  
[www.pmnch.org](http://www.pmnch.org)

settings, where development outcomes are being heavily threatened. In 2020, a [record 56 active conflicts](#) were documented and last year, [Sub-Saharan Africa experienced its highest number of coups in 20 years](#). Climate change and extreme weather events are causing a surge in natural disasters, disproportionately impacting low- and lower-middle income countries. Similarly, two years into the pandemic, 90% of countries [surveyed by WHO](#) during November-December 2021 were still reporting disruptions and challenges in providing essential health services.

To protect our progress and get back on track to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, there is a need for a multi-sectoral, whole of government and whole of society approach that puts equity at the centre of the response to the current crises and efforts to build back better. As the Independent Panel on Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR) notes in its 2022 report, that work underway to transform the international system currently lacks coherence, urgency, and focus and efforts are needed to improve it.

### **Request to the Board**

The PMNCH Board is asked to engage in a strategic discussion on the status, gaps, opportunities and needs for aligned, partner-led action to support the implementation of commitments to women's, children's and adolescents' (WCA) health and well-being.

In particular, the PMNCH Board is asked to consider the following questions:

- From a country perspective, how best can PMNCH strengthen its support to governments and national stakeholders, to uphold commitments for women, children and adolescents, including SRHR within the broader UHC efforts?
- How can PMNCH's constituencies work together to drive greater accountability for policy, financing and service delivery for women's, children's and adolescents' health and well-being?
- How can PMNCH work with other global and regional stakeholders, to promote multisectoral action for greater WCAH impact at the national level for the most vulnerable?

### **Decision(s)**

- Agree on actions to support efforts of partner governments and national stakeholders to mobilize and implement commitments for women, children and adolescents within the broader UHC efforts.
- Agree on constituency-led actions that will drive greater accountability efforts linking it with existing opportunities through regional and global frameworks.
- Agree on actions to support global and regional stakeholders, to promote multisectoral action for greater WCAH impact at the national level for the most vulnerable.

### **Document(s)**

- PMNCH- B29-2022; 2a Protecting and promoting WCA health and wellbeing, Concept Note
- PMNCH- B29-2022; 2b Protecting and promoting WCA health and wellbeing, PPT (will be made available on the website after the meeting).



Women's,  
Children's and  
Adolescents'  
Health

20 Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland  
E: [pmnch@who.int](mailto:pmnch@who.int)  
[www.pmnch.org](http://www.pmnch.org)

## **Agenda Item 3 – Strategic Dialogue II - Mobilizing for SRHR in UHC**

### **Context**

Pronounced shifts towards far right-wing and conservative politics are threatening hard-won progress in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). This is happening globally, regionally, nationally and locally, affecting progress in many areas, such as access to safe abortion, access to contraception, as well as the protection and advancement of the sexual and reproductive rights of especially women and vulnerable populations. The impacts of politics on SRHR are often the greatest for the most vulnerable or marginalised populations, who themselves may have limited opportunities to influence political outcomes on their own behalf.

PMNCH has a critical role advocating for the benefits of a comprehensive package of SRHR interventions, including support for safe abortion (where legal), bodily autonomy, and comprehensive sexual education. Policies that include comprehensive SRHR interventions in national UHC plans will ensure that UHC is a powerful driver of social equality as we aim towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

PMNCH is dedicated to upholding essential SRHR interventions and ensuring continuous progress in financing and equitable access to comprehensive packages of care. Public emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic as well as humanitarian emergencies and conflicts, illustrate that the impact on SRHR is often unnoticed, arising as an indirect consequence of strained health systems, disruptions in care, and redirected resources. This necessitates more focused advocacy for commitments by countries and accountability for these commitments.

The purpose of this agenda item is to update PMNCH Board members on the status of global efforts to secure the progressive realization of SRHR for women and girls everywhere irrespective of who they are, or where they live, to identify key challenges and to consider what PMNCH partners can do together in response.

### **Request to the Board**

The PMNCH Board is asked to engage in a strategic discussion on what can partners do together to combat current and increasing conservative trends, risks, uphold rights, and drive greater commitment to SRHR within national UHC benefit packages.

### **Decision(s)**

- Agree on strategies to address the increasing political threats to SRHR and shrinking of spaces for the promotion of SRHR.
- Agree on strategic focus and thrust of PMNCH's advocacy to increasing SRHR commitment mobilization.

### **Document(s)**

- PMNCH-B29-2022; 3a Mobilizing for SRHR in UHC, PPT (will be made available on the website after the meeting).

## Agenda Item 4: Look ahead at Day 2

Agenda Item 3 will be the last substantive item on the Day 1 Agenda. As such, Agenda Item 4 'Look ahead at Day 1' will focus on outlining the key objectives and decisions needed from Day 2.

Due to the nature of this agenda item, no documents or decisions are needed.

## 15 July 2022: 29<sup>th</sup> PMNCH Board Meeting

## Agenda Item 5: Opening remarks and Board photo

The Board Chair will reiterate the objectives of the Board meeting and in particular Day 2 objectives. A Board photo will be taken, and as such, we kindly request that Board members to turn on their cameras.

## Agenda Item 6: Progress report from the PMNCH Executive Committee

### Context

PMNCH Executive Committee (EC) oversees the operational aspects of PMNCH's work and reports on these to the PMNCH Board.

The Chair of the EC will use this opportunity to remind the Board of PMNCH's overall objectives and report on programmatic and organizational work in 2022, including our resource mobilization status. The overall purpose of this agenda item is for the Board to be informed on how PMNCH is meeting the agreed advocacy priorities in support of the PMNCH 2021-2025 Strategy.

### Decision(s)

- Approve the Executive Committee Report

### Document(s)

- PMNCH-B29-2022; 6a Progress Report from PMNCH Executive Committee, PPT (will be made available on the website after the meeting).



Women's,  
Children's and  
Adolescents'  
Health

20 Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland  
E: [pmnch@who.int](mailto:pmnch@who.int)  
[www.pmnch.org](http://www.pmnch.org)

## Item 7 - Strategic Dialogue III - Global Forum for Adolescents

### Context

In October 2023, young people around the world and their allies will rally together to tell political leaders about their dreams, hopes and priorities for action. They will urge governments to protect them in their diversity, using principles of equity and equality, and to promote the multi-dimensional nature of adolescent well-being through data-driven strengthened political commitment, policies and financing for their improved well-being.

The Global Forum for Adolescents (GFA) will be the world's largest ever gathering for adolescents. The GFA will be co-owned and co-developed by young people (defined as adolescents and youth ages 10-24). It will leverage technology and innovative approaches to engage and consult more than 1 million young people across the world, creating an enabling environment for them to present their 'ask' to political leaders, focusing on new policies where policies don't exist, re-designed and updated policies where such policies exist, improved and sustained financing and better services across sectors for issues of importance to them, e.g. (health and nutrition, education employment, skill development, social protection, water and sanitation, etc.). The youth-centered, grassroots approach of the GFA will be supported at the highest levels by heads of state and ministers, as well as by representatives of the ten PMNCH constituencies, with Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement (MAYE) at its heart.

The goal of the Forum is to contribute to progress toward the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through:

- **Improved political commitment to adolescents' well-being**, advancing investment, policies and service delivery at sub-national, national, regional and global levels.

The **expected outcomes of the Forum**, and related development processes in the lead up, are:

- **Stronger civic movements at national, regional and global levels** for adolescent well-being, including increased meaningful adolescent and youth engagement (MAYE), driving all aspects of the Forum;
- **Updated evidence and data, as well as greater knowledge sharing** to support effective policy and programming, including good practices, investment case, lived experiences, advocacy tools, innovations and indicators/monitoring, supporting the five domains of the [Adolescent Well-being Framework](#);
- **Improved engagement and consensus among PMNCH's 1,300+ partner-organizations**, aligning priorities and strategies to increase investment and accelerate implementation of programmes to promote adolescent well-being;

Furthermore, the event will seek to drive partner action and accountability for pledges made at the SDG Summit of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2023, as well as to add pace and urgency to securing financial commitments for adolescent well-being at the India-hosted G20 Summit



Women's,  
Children's and  
Adolescents'  
Health

20 Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland  
E: [pmnch@who.int](mailto:pmnch@who.int)  
[www.pmnch.org](http://www.pmnch.org)

in November 2023. At the national/regional level, the Forum will serve as a key moment for kickstarting shifts in national policy and programme re-design, as well as catalyzing national multi-stakeholder dialogue toward an inclusive, digitally powered approach to promoting adolescent well-being.

#### **Decision(s)**

- Approval of the recommendations proposed in the paper.

#### **Document(s)**

- PMNCH-B29-2022; 7a Global Forum for Adolescents, Concept Note. PMNCH-B29-2022; 7a Global Forum for Adolescents, PPT (will be made available on the website after the meeting).

### **ITEM 8 – Governance Reform**

#### **Context**

In 2021, PMNCH achieved an important milestone in reorganizing and streamlining its governance structure to enable more efficient and effective operations, and greater engagement by partners themselves. This extensive effort was aimed at supporting the implementation of the [2021–2025 Strategy](#) and enabling members to play a more central role in conceptualizing and implementing the work of PMNCH. Standing Committees and Working Groups were created, with strong links and interactions between these structures and broader PMNCH membership, through the constituencies structures.

#### **Decision(s) / outcomes**

- Take note of status of implementation of governance reform and provide any reflections.

#### **Document(s)**

- PMNCH-B29-2022; 8a Governance Reform, PPT (will be made available on the website after the meeting).

### **Item 9: Summary and Re-cap**

In closing the Board meeting, Rt. Hon Helen Clark, Board Chair, will share some reflections and 'take aways' from the Board Meeting. Full Decisions and Note for the Record will be shared after the Board meeting for detailed review and comments.