



Meeting of the PMNCH Executive Committee

Wednesday 26 July 2023

14:30 to 16:30 CET (120 min)

Attendance	
EC Members	
Board Vice-Chair, EC Chair and PG	Rajesh Bhushan
Board Vice-Chair, EC Vice Chair and DF	Chris Carter (apologies, Hareya Fassil)
ART	Marleen Temmerman
AY	David Imbago
GFM	Sameera Al Tuwaijri
HCPA	Sandra Torres
IGO	Martin Chungong
Non-Governmental Organizations	Maria Antonietta Alcalde (apologies)
Private Sector	Charlotte Ersboell
UN Agencies / WHO (host)	Anshu Banerjee
Chairs of Standing Committees	
Governance and Ethics Committee (GEC)	Flavia Bustreo
Partner Engagement in Countries Committee (PECC)	Joy Phumaphi (apologies) Gareth Jones
Strategic Advocacy Committee (SAC) including	Githinji Githahi
Observers: Zoya Rizvi, Caitlyn Mitchell; Tammara Esho, Miriam Sangiorgio and Avi Silverman	
Secretariat: Helga Fogstad; Nebojsa Novcic; Ilze Kalnina; Anshu Mohan and Dina El Husseiny	

The documents relevant for the meeting can be found on PMNCH's website at the following link:

[Executive Committee Meeting - 26 July 2023 \(who.int\)](#)

ITEM 1 – Adoption of the Agenda and Note for the Record from previous meeting

On behalf of the Executive Committee (EC), Mr. Rajesh Bhushan, thanked all those who joined the meeting as well as those involved in preparing the focused agenda for this meeting, and for all the supporting papers that were shared through the [PMNCH's website](#). There was also great appreciation for the [Pre EC Webinar](#) held on 21 July 16:00 – 18:00. Members of the EC noted that it was particularly helpful in providing background information on the EC meeting objectives.

ITEM 1	Decision / Action	Responsibility
1.1	Meeting quorum was achieved.	n/a
1.2	Approved EC Agenda and objectives.	Secretariat to put on PMNCH website



	Approved EC Note for the Record (NfR) without changes, as related to the EC meeting on 20 June 2023.	
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ITEM 2 – Keeping PMNCH Governance fit-for-purpose

Flavia Bustreo, Chair Governance and Ethics Committee introduced this agenda item by providing a high-level overview of the multiple governance strengthening processes which have taken place thus far. These processes focused on the important work conducted on Good Management and the Light Touch Assessment. She also thanked Mr Bhushan, EC Chair, GEC members and former GEC Vice Chairs Dorothy Shaw and Leslie Elder who led the working group which conducted the work.

The members of the Executive Committee expressed appreciation for the work set out in the [presentation](#) and provided the following reflections during their deliberations:

- There was deep appreciation for the excellent and immense work of all PMNCH-led structures, as diligently supported by the Secretariat.
- On the development and implementation of the Global Forum for Adolescent (GFA), it was recognized that the GFA is PMNCH's Partners' Forum in 2023 and that its implementation is a tremendous effort, requiring multi-stakeholder engagement at all levels. However, it was debated if creating separate structures for the GFA was the most effective, given that the existing structures found it difficult to contribute effectively to the GFA outputs and outcomes. In any case, there was agreement to move towards folding GFA structures, with especially the 1.8 Campaign into existing governance processes after the GFA in October 2023.
- Leveraging internal staff resources by PMNCH members was deemed to be a useful way of increasing the engagement by the members in PMNCH's work, giving opportunities for members' staff to gain new skills and experiences, and for reducing the workload from the Secretariat. Building on this point, some EC members suggested exploring secondments and fellowships as a modality for this. However, it was important to note that not all partners are in a position to leverage internal resources from within their organization.
- The work on DEI was welcomed by EC members, with a suggestion for the GEC to consider looking beyond binary concepts of gender identity in its considerations of equity and balance on PMNCH structures.
- Going forwards, the suggestion was for PMNCH to continue to focus on big ticket deliverables and to foster increased engagement across the constituency platforms – through constituencies individually but also through opportunities for cross-constituency engagement.

The decisions emerging from the discussions are summarized below

ITEM 2	Decision / Action	Responsibility
2.1	Recommendations as presented have been approved	Secretariat
2.2	Secretariat to explore opportunities for secondments or fellowships from members as a means of strengthening Secretariat staff capacities but also as an opportunity for member organizations' staff to develop additional skills and experience.	- Secretariat - PMNCH members



ITEM 3 – Continuously strengthening PMNCH Secretariat's management approaches

Helga Fogstad, PMNCH's Executive Director, shared a [presentation](#) summarizing the important efforts aimed at strengthening PMNCH's management. These efforts were based on the work on Good Management, the Light Touch Assessment and the PMNCH Staff Retreats.

Members of the EC provided the following reflections during their deliberations:

- Unanimous recognition of excellent and rich work that the Executive Director and the whole of the Secretariat have undertaken over the years, supporting the many workstreams across the partnership, including the successful move towards greater digitization of PMNCH's collective efforts.
- Suggestions were put forward to consider introducing new and strengthen existing, as may be needed and relevant, mentorship programmes within the Secretariat to support young professionals in their integration into the work of PMNCH.
- Appreciated the structural changes that have been put in place at the PMNCH Secretariat, which are moving it towards a young-professional friendly organization (e.g., recruiting at young P1 levels). This is important in terms of continuing to encourage young people's passion for healthcare professions more generally, and to build young people's passion for issues, such as climate change, into PMNCH's workplans. PMNCH could also consider using the age of 35 as the cut off point for 'young professionals' within the Secretariat at its next reporting point to the EC.
- Welcomed the safeguarding processes that have been put in place for staff welfare and wellbeing, including processes developed and put in place by WHO.
- Suggest GEC considers ways of ongoingly assessing PMNCH's efforts in ensuring it continues to excel at meaningful adolescent and youth engagement (MAYE) in all that it does, in the current absence of there being a global process (similar to the Global Health 50:50 project on gender <https://globalhealth5050.org>)

The decisions emerging from the discussions are summarized below

	Decision / Action	Responsibility
3.1	Recommendations as presented have been endorsed.	Secretariat
3.2	GEC to consider ways of assessing and making more visible PMNCH's important efforts in implementing meaningful adolescent and youth engagement (MAYE), including considerations of developing a mentorship program.	GEC

ITEM 5 - Any other business

Item 5 was moved before Item 4, as agreed at the start of the meeting.



Following the successful PMNCH Board meeting on 21 and 22 June 2023, there were two key issues which needed to be discussed under AOB. These included a discussion on two inter-related items:

- operationalizing the Board decisions and reporting on workplan and budget implementation
- development of the Board agenda which will take place virtually at the end of November 2023.

The decisions emerging from the discussions are summarized below

	Decision / Action	Responsibility
4.1	Decisions made by the Board at its June 2023 meeting should be reviewed by PMNCH's standing committees and working groups, who should then report back to the EC with proposed implementation plans.	Standing committees and working groups
4.2	Standing committees and working groups to report to the EC on 2022-23 workplan implementation progress and budget through an electronic process, facilitated by the Secretariat (e.g., through recorded webinar presentations), during September 2023.	• Standing committees and working groups • Secretariat
4.3	A draft of the Board Agenda should also be developed by the standing committees and working groups and shared electronically with the EC for deliberations and onwards proposal to the Board Chair. Items in the Board Agenda should build on the Board decisions in June 2023 (including an item on the review of GFA outcomes and next steps in relation to this effort).	• Standing committees and working groups • Executive Committee • Secretariat

ITEM 4 – Process for reviewing PMNCH ED Performance Reviews

Closed session