

PMNCH Constituencies

Terms of Reference

1. Background

In 2024, following an independent review of the PMNCH governance system, the then Board approved a set of reforms, including the merger of PMNCH's ten constituencies into six.

The changes approved by the Board in December 2024, respond to a challenging global health landscape and the reality that progress in women's, adolescents' and children's health has stalled, lagging far behind the promises of the Sustainable Development Goals, with sexual and reproductive health and rights also under significant threat.

Now more than ever, PMNCH must stand up and stand out as a bold and impactful multi-stakeholder platform, enabling and galvanizing effective and innovative collaboration and action for the health and wellbeing of women, adolescents and children around the world.

2. Constituencies and their overall purpose

PMNCH's six constituencies are central to the organization's success. They are the PMNCH's core building blocks, providing the means by which all PMNCH members are grouped into strategic stakeholder cohorts that then can enable and support cooperation, collaboration and mutual effort for common goals as defined by PMNCH's strategy.

The overall purpose of those cohorts or constituencies is to act as loosely organised "talent pools", providing the PMNCH Secretariat and members ease of access to expert advice, active contribution and skilled participants for cross-constituency and constituency specific working groups to help drive delivery of PMNCH strategic priorities.

The (post-2024 governance reform) constituencies also provide the organising framework under which the required mix of PMNCH Board members - as per the Board's terms of reference - can be achieved. A total of 13 of the 17 PMNCH Board members are drawn from the six constituencies as follows:

- *Governments and Intergovernmental Organizations*, from which a maximum of three Board members are drawn.
- *Global Financing Mechanisms and United Nations Agencies*, from which a maximum of two Board members are drawn.
- *Health Care Professionals Associations and Academic Research & Training Institutes*, from which a maximum of two Board members are drawn.
- *Adolescents and Youth* from which a maximum of two Board members are drawn.
- *Private Sector and private foundations* from which a maximum of two Board members are drawn.
- *Non-Governmental Organizations* from which a maximum of two Board members are drawn.

Normally, those 13 Board members will in turn act as the constituencies' convenors/co-conveners.

3. Individual constituency roles

Working for delivery of PMNCH strategic priorities and in cooperation with the PMNCH Secretariat, it is the role of constituencies to:

- Help welcome and pool PMNCH member organizations into coherent common sector/expertise-specific groupings that can act as a key first-port-of-call for the active engagement of members in PMNCH priorities.
- Develop and provide advice for the PMNCH Board and Secretariat on sector/expertise specific concerns, as those are understood by constituency members.
- Identify and respond to opportunities for active participation of the constituency in cross constituency initiatives at global, regional and national levels.
- Promote exchange of information, analysis and experience both within and across constituencies.

4. Joint constituency roles

Through periodic forums convened by the Board, PMNCH constituencies jointly hold the Board accountable for the performance, sustainability and impact for women's, children's and adolescents' health.

5. Constituency accountability

Each constituency is accountable to the Board and through its convenors will report periodically to the Board on its activities.

6. Constituency convenors/co-convenors

The constituency convenors/co-convenors will work with the Secretariat to establish a schedule of constituency meetings.

Constituency convenors/co-convenors will ensure constituency meetings are designed and facilitated to:

- Provide up-dates on PMNCH actions and progress in implementing priorities
- Share information about opportunities and requests for participation in cross constituency working groups
- Seek indication from among constituency members of their willingness and availability to participate in cross constituency working groups
- Seek advice from constituency members on issues of concern to PMNCH

As noted, the constituency convenors/co-convenors provide periodic report to the Board on the activities of the constituencies.

7. Secretariat support for the Constituencies

The constituencies will be supported by the PMNCH Secretariat. The Secretariat will assist with coordination, facilitation and minuting of meetings as well as the preparation and sharing of documents. Meetings will normally be held virtually.

Agreed on 24 January 2025

For review on 24 January 2028