



Report to the Board of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee

July 2007





Background

During the PMNCH Board meeting of April 21, 2007 an ad hoc Governance Committee was established, with the following Terms of Reference:

- a) develop a nomination process for election of the new Board Chair
- b) establish a process through which Partnership membership applications can be screened
- c) develop a single voting process for election of chairs and co-chairs to be used in the future.

Committee members are as follows: Ruth Calderon, Ann Starrs (Chair), Julia Hussein, André Lalonde, Fran McConville, Sonya Rabeneck, Pascal Villeneuve.

Committee meetings

The Committee met twice by teleconference, on May 24 and June 19. Meetings were chaired by Ann Starrs. Background documents and Notes for the Record were prepared by Sonya Rabeneck. These are available from the Secretariat (rabenecks@who.int).

Background documents provided to the Committee were:

- Aspects of PMNCH Governance -- Membership and Rotation
- Comparison of election process of 6 Geneva-based organizations

The Committee focused its discussions on the three main items of the Terms of Reference. In addition, the Committee identified governance issues which may require consideration in a broader governance review, at a later date. The Committee also identified a number of editorial changes to be incorporated into the PMNCH Conceptual and Institutional Document, when this is revised at a later date. These changes are based on April 21 Board discussions.

Main recommendations

a) Nomination process for selection of a new Board Chair

The Committee reviewed the election practices of six organizations, based in the Geneva area: the Global Fund, GAVI, Roll Back Malaria, Stop TB, GAIN and Health Metrics Network. The Committee considered both the nomination process and the voting process.

The Committee recommends the following:

- Nominations should be solicited from serving Board members. Only Representatives should submit nominations. Self nominations should also be accepted
- Nominees should represent one of the six constituencies on the Board. For the replacement of Kul Gautam, nominees should be current or former members of the Board. The possibility of selecting a Board Chair/Co-Chair from outside the Board should be considered in the future.
- Nominations should be compiled by the Secretariat and shared with the Board.
- Board Representatives should be given two weeks to vote on the nominations. Voting should be conducted anonymously (secret ballot) utilizing an on-line service.
- A majority, 51% or 12 votes, should decide.



b) Screening of Partnership membership applications

The Committee noted that membership in the Partnership has grown from 80 about one year ago to over 130 currently. Membership applications are received by the Secretariat on a steady basis, via the website and through contacts made during conferences and meetings (i.e., forms are frequently submitted at display booths). The Committee's view is that review and screening of applications is a Secretariat responsibility; the Board would need to be involved only in special circumstances.

The Committee recommends the following process:

- Applications should include a brief description of the applicant's interest in the Partnership, its core mission, and its potential contribution to the Partnership. Applications should also include a statement of commitment to the Partnership's principles and agreement to fulfil the responsibilities of membership in the Partnership (these are published on the Partnership website, www.pmnch.org).
- The Secretariat should review applications and decide to accept or not.
- The Secretariat should consult with the Chairs and Co-Chairs if special circumstances arise
- The Secretariat should inform the Board about new members through the monthly E-Bulletin. The Secretariat should also inform each applicant of the outcome.

c) Process for election of Working Group Chairs and Co-Chairs

The Committee reviewed the selection process to date and found the lack of a common process across the four Working Groups to be unsatisfactory. It was felt that in future all Working Groups should adhere to a single process, outlined here.

The Committee recommends the following process:

- Each Working Group's core members should hold democratic elections to identify a Chair and Co-Chair
- Consultation with the broader Working Group membership should be encouraged
- Co-Chairships should be encouraged to diversify the leadership base
- The Board should approve on a non-objection basis. The main role of the Board should be to review the balance across maternal, newborn and child constituencies, and across the six constituency groups.
- Chairs should be Board members, either Representative or Alternate, so that communications between Working Groups and Board are optimized. If a Chair or Co-Chair cannot be found from amongst the Board membership, recruitment can proceed from outside and he/she will be invited to Board meetings as Observer.



Additional recommendations

The Committee recommends that the following are broader governance issues be given consideration in the course of a governance review in the future:

- Accountability - this is somewhat problematic, and needs to be taken up within the revisions to the Conceptual and Institutional Document. The 2008 value-added work planning exercise, which is under way now, will address accountabilities of planned activities and milestones.
- Role of the Partner Forum in selection of the Board Chair - This was unclear to many Forum participants, as noted on in the Forum evaluation.
- Criteria for adding constituencies to the Partnership, such as private sector.
- Future Board Chair searches - the desirability of recruiting a Chair from outside the Board current or past membership should be considered.

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