

## **Common agenda for Maternal Newborn and Child Health during the United Nations high level event on the MDGs**

The United Nations (UN) Secretary General (SG) and the President of the General Assembly (GA) will convene on September 25, 2008 in New York, a high level meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to review progress, identify gaps and incite commitments to move forward. This event will be preceded on the 22 of September by a high level meeting on Africa's development needs and will be accompanied by a number of side events.

The UN high level meeting will consist of a plenary session, which will include speeches by the Secretary General and Bill Gates among others. The participants will then break into roundtables which will last throughout the day and during which Heads of State will be given three minutes to speak on the area of their choice. The roundtable on health and education is of interest to the Partnership.

As indicated in the next two pages, a number of different side events related to maternal, newborn and/or child health (MNCH) are going to take place around the high level event. It is of capital importance that the MNCH community be cohesive in its action and coherent in its messaging. Below you will find a short description of the side events being held (please note that some events are still at the concept/design stage). The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) invites all partners to engage in discussion to ensure common messaging and "asks", so that we all speak with one voice for MNCH.

### **MNCH related events**

#### **High Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs: State of Implementation of Various Commitments, Challenges and the Way Forward**

Host: President of General Assembly

Date: September 22 all day

Estimated number of participants: 100

The meeting will be convened by the President of the General Assembly and will bring together participants of the highest possible political level, some NGOs, civil society organizations, private sector organizations and Heads of UN agencies to review the implementation of commitments made to and by Africa. The meeting will consist of a short plenary session with speeches from, among others the president of the GA and the SG and four roundtable sessions. The topics of the roundtable sessions will be the same as that of the overall event. The event will yield a 'Political Declaration of Africa's Development Needs'. This declaration is currently being drafted through a consultative process being driven by the Missions of Angola and the Netherlands to the UN in New York.

#### **UN high level event plenary session**

Host: UN Secretary General

Date: September 25 morning

The plenary session will precede the roundtable discussions of the high level event and will be opened by the UN Secretary General. A restricted number of additional speakers will make short introductory presentations, including Bill Gates. This session should last only a half hour.

### **Roundtable on Health and Education**

Host: UN Secretary General

Chairs: Norway / Tanzania

Date: September 25 all day

Estimated number of participants: 80

The roundtable on health and education is one of four roundtables that will be taking place on September 25 following the opening session of the High Level Meeting. This roundtable session which will tentatively be chaired by the Prime Minister of Norway and the President of Tanzania will allow for 64 participating Heads of State to provide comments (3 minutes attributed to each) on the topic. A limited number of non-governmental participants will be allowed to participate in the session. Recommendations from said session will be recorded and disseminated though the means of dissemination has not yet been agreed upon.

### **Roundtable on Health and Education and Roundtable on Poverty?**

Host: UN Secretary General

Date: September 25 all day

Estimated number of participants: 80

The roundtable on poverty is one of four roundtables that will be taking place on September 25 following the opening session of the High level meeting. This roundtable session will allow for 64 participating Heads of State to provide comments (3 minutes attributed to each) on the topic. A limited number of non-governmental participants will be allowed to participate in the session. Recommendations from said session will be recorded and disseminated though the means of dissemination has not yet been agreed upon.

### **Stoltenberg MDGs 4 and 5 Dinner**

Host: Norway

Date: September 24 evening

The Prime Minister of Norway will be convening a dinner for the Leaders of the Global Network of Leaders for MDGs 4 and 5. The event is restricted to invited guests and will provide attendees with the opportunity to discuss the achievements of the Global Network of Leaders thus far and the necessary next steps.

### **Ladies Dinner on Maternal Mortality**

Host: United Kingdom-the Wife of the Prime Minister / White Ribbon Alliance

Date: September 24 evening

Estimated number of participants: 40 - 60

Press coverage: medium

The Ladies Dinner on Maternal Mortality will gather influential women from around the world. First Ladies will be invited. The topic of discussion will be maternal health and the relationship between women, maternal health and the eight MDGs. Hoped outcomes of the event are the creation of visibility of maternal health (its current situation and necessary next steps) and the exchange by invited guests about the different ways in which they, and women more generally, can contribute to the efforts in improving maternal health. This event seeks to be an introduction to future collaboration.

### **Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Side Event**

Organizer: Various partners from the Partnership

Tentative hosts: Australia / Tanzania / Chile / various civil society representatives

Date: September 25 10:30-12:00

Venue: Millennium Hotel

Estimated number of participants: 100

Press coverage: low

This event will bring together heads of states and several actors from civil society, the private sector and from government to set concrete plans by which each of these constituencies can improve MNCH. The event will consist of presentations of the progress made in regards to MNCH highlighting commitments which have been made over the past 12 months and setting forth the necessary next steps and commitments. The expected output of this session is the announcement of commitments/action plans from the different actors regarding their contribution to the efforts for improving MNCH. This event will be co-ordinated with the media event currently being planned by Norway

### **MDGs 4 and 5 event**

Host: Norway

Date: September 25 daytime

Venue: School

Estimated press coverage: high

This event will bring Norway, one or two other Governments and the Gates Foundation to a school in New York City where they will increase the visibility of MNCH and the progress made thus far in regards to MDGs 4 and 5. This is principally a media event.

### **Roundtable with First Ladies and Women Leaders on Maternal Health (MDG 5)**

Host: World Health Organization (WHO) Director General

Date: September 25, early morning

Press coverage: low

This event will seek to re-emphasize WHO's leadership, solicit commitment and ensure appropriate WHO support to make a difference on maternal health in countries. It will bring together first ladies from Africa, Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe and South-East Asia as well as heads of UNFPA, UNICEF and the Vice-President of the World Bank

### **Meeting of the Sherpas of the Global Network of Leaders**

Date: September 26

The Sherpas of the members of the Global Network of Leaders for MDGs 4 and 5 will have a meeting following the High Level Event to discuss progress on ongoing initiatives and next steps