

Note for the Record

PMNCH Executive Committee (EC) Conference Call

March 13, 2012

Present: Flavia Bustreo (co-Chair), Jennifer Woodside (NGO), José Belizán (ART), Tinu Taylor (country), Nester Moyo (HCPA), Sameera Al Tuwaijri (Multilateral Agencies)

Secretariat: Carole Presern, Andrés de Francisco, Marta Seoane

Observer: Stanislava Nikolova (PMNCH Board Chair's Office, HSPH)

AGENDA

Chair: Flavia Bustreo

1. Approval of the February Note for the Record
2. Feedback on Draft Concept Note for the 12th PMNCH Board Meeting in May
3. Resource Mobilization
4. Next Steps of the RMNCH Financing Task Team
5. Upcoming Events/Moments
 - Asia Pacific Workshops
 - Update on PMNCH Events around Women Deliver/IPU (26-28 March, Kampala, Uganda)
 - Big "Moments": Family Planning, Pre-term Birth Report, child survival, Commission on Commodities
6. Governance Update

1. Approval of the February Note for the Record

Decision → The Note for the Record from the EC's call on 14 February was approved.

2. Feedback on Draft Concept Note for the 12th PMNCH Board Meeting in May

Update: Carole Presern introduced the concept note for the upcoming Board meeting, hosted by UNFPA, which had been distributed in advance, inviting suggestions and comments.

Discussion:

It was suggested to have enough time to discuss the objective 4: "Review progress of work of first half of 2012".

For item 'setting the scene' part of the agenda, include a presentation on the Commission on Commodities for Women's and Children's Health (exp to be launched by the SG on 23 March).

Include time for specific country updates and examples from governments (instead of discussing the Asian/African workshops, for example)

The EC requested more clarity on the pre-Board events, to ensure there is no overlap.

Next Steps → The Secretariat will take into account the comments and will start annotating the agenda.

3. Resource Mobilization

Following the meeting on 2 February in London, two grants from DFID and Canada have been received, and funding from Norway, Sweden, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is in the pipeline.

The Secretariat updated the EC about recent discussions by the Countdown group – which met in New York the week before. The Countdown group is currently discussing funding modalities and budget for 2012 – the results of their discussions and decisions might have implications on the way the Countdown budget is reflected in the PMNCH Budget for 2012 (currently reflected in their totality). Should the Countdown receive some of the funding directly, the 2012 PMNCH budget will be reduced accordingly,

and as agreed at the Board, the % of unearmarked funding going to CD (from the PMNCH budget) will be reduced accordingly. The Secretariat will keep the EC and Board updated.

Carole mentioned that the resource mobilization efforts for 2012 are going well, with about 54 per cent of the budget for 2012 secured, and with a view to receiving additional contributions from new donors and the private sector, which could fund to up to 75%. It is also expected that there might be some funds available from the Commission on Information and Accountability follow up, to deliver the work asked of PMNCH towards the work of the iERG.

4. Next Steps of the RMNCH Financing Task Team

The notes from the February meeting of the Task Team, chaired by Cristián Baeza and Ann Starrs, was shared with the EC prior to the call. The task team is working on a tight deadline, and there is a general sense of urgency to reach agreed recommendations as there are various initiatives and discussions held on related topics, such as family planning or the commodities commission that are also looking at how to raise additional funding and optimize ways to channel funds.

Next Steps → The task team will share its final report with the EC before the May Board Meeting for sharing with the constituencies.

5. Upcoming Events/Moments

Report on various recent and upcoming events

Asia Pacific/Africa Workshops

The purpose of these workshops is to discuss and agree with regional and national stakeholders the best ways to scale up interventions, following existing consensus of interventions and other relevant policies. The format being explored consists of one day high-level policy dialogues followed by two days of technical workshops with strong focus on accountability and evaluation. These events are intended to be catalysts for more action in countries. More information as well as final dates will be shared with the EC as soon as they become available.

Update on PMNCH Events around Women Deliver

25 March – workshop on strengthening RMNCH advocacy networks organized by PMNCH

26 March - PMNCH and the Africa MNCH Coalition will host a regional meeting of about 100 participants on the implementation of a regional RMNCH advocacy strategy, as follow up to the Global Strategy implementation.

27 March private sector dinner event led by the UN Foundation and PMNCH.

1- 5 April – IPU Assembly, where a resolution on RMNCH is expected to be passed. It supports the Global Strategy and the recommendations of the Commission on Information and Accountability.

Family Planning

A big event on family planning will take place in July in London (led by DFID and BMGF amongst others). Leading to the event, there will be various consultations, which follow the one in early February, and will include one on the 2nd of May in New York, the day prior to the opening of the 12th PMNCH Board Meeting.

Pre-term Birth Report

The report will be launched also on the 2nd May. The technical review group for the report is chaired by Dr. Mason and José Belizán. The group is currently finalizing chapter 6 focused on actions. The report will highlight both: burden of mortality linked to pre-term births and actions and recommendations to prevent it. A draft copy will be shared with the EC closer to the launch (Concept note and outline of the report were circulated prior to the call).

Discussion

The number of current events shows there is great energy in the sphere of RMNCH at present. An additional key event is the “child survival: call to action” (led by the US government for June in Washington, DC). PMNCH needs to ensure that there are linkages and complementarity of these events, and they are framed within existing efforts towards the Global Strategy and the EWEC efforts.

On the Asia Pacific/Africa Workshops it was mentioned the link to on-going opportunities to engage in policy dialogues to explore dissemination and use of essential interventions: the African Development Bank is organizing a meeting with ministers of finance in Tunisia in the summer, in addition, the Women Deliver series of regional consultations in Bangladesh, Mexico and Brazil present valuable opportunities to continue the dialogues. It was mentioned that it would be beneficial for countries if these events could be consolidated, so countries can participate and there can be more coordination amongst the country actors.

6. Governance Update

ART Selection Progress

José Belizán shared the results of the nominations received for the vacant ART seat (8 nominations received). With the Secretariat (and bearing in mind the criteria previously agreed by the ART board members), three highly qualified candidates from Zambia, China and Spain have been shortlisted. The ART members including one of the co-chairs will form the selection committee to finalize a decision in the coming week and will revert to the EC with the decision.

Private Sector Constituency

Marta Seoane informed that this constituency had a follow up call to the one in December last year, and agreed draft guidelines for the constituency (including agreement on criteria for Board Members and selection process) were sent for comments by the constituency members and will be shared with the EC. A call for nominations for the two board representatives (and alternates) has been posted, and the Secretariat will be receiving them, following which, anonymous voting will take place. The Secretariat will report regularly on process and milestones in order to ensure that there is no concern on part of other Board Members, and particularly the multilateral agencies who need to verify with their own ethical or legal departments.

Country Constituency

Anuradha Gupta, Tinu Taylor, Neema Rusibamayila together with representatives from Ethiopia, Indonesia and Mozambique participated in the first country constituency call. The constituency needs to fill the vacant country board seat and a call will go out in the next two weeks. The countries who were at the call have interest in engaging and the Secretariat is following up on identifying active focal points to follow up on the interest. Tinu reminded the EC that Nigeria will host the next Board meeting in October 2012.

AOB

Dr. Bustreo thanked the Secretariat for the work in preparing the agenda for the call, as well as the participants for their comments. It was suggested that an item be included at the next EC call, to assess progress towards the Partnership's agreed programme of work for 2012.

-- Meeting ends ---

The Secretariat will suggest that the next call (initially planned for 10 April) –be moved to Monday 16th April at the same time – due to Easter holidays.