

Proposal to the Board:

Process of Appointing Members of the Independent Accountability Panel

Background

The Global Strategy for Women's Children's and Adolescent's Health (GS2) issued on September 26 2015, states that: *"Global accountability for the implementation of the Global Strategy will be brought together in a unified framework. In an effort to harmonize global reporting, minimize the reporting burden on countries and support cost-effectiveness, a comprehensive synthesis report of the State of Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health will be produced using information routinely provided from United Nations agencies and independent monitoring groups. This annual report will be developed in an independent and transparent manner and will provide the global community with the best evidence for progress on women's, children's and adolescents' health towards achieving the Global Strategy objectives and the SDGs. The report will provide recommendations and guidance to all stakeholders on how to accelerate progress for improved health outcomes for women, children and adolescents. The Independent Accountability Panel will take the lead in writing the annual report with support from a small secretariat housed at the Partnership."*

The Independent Accountability Panel (IAP) will submit its report to the UN Secretary General (UNSG) in time for consideration at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and by the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). Prior to its submission to the UNSG, the IAP report will be shared with the Partnership Board so that the Board can add a commentary, representing a broad stakeholder perspective on the findings of the report and on the report's recommendations for follow up actions.

The process of appointing IAP members

Urgent action is needed. The Independent Expert Review Group (iERG) for the 2010 Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health ceases to function on December 31, 2015 and rapid action is needed to ensure that the first IAP report can be issued in time for the 2016 UNGA. This note provides the background for a Board decision to facilitate the rapid appointment of members of IAP to start work in January 2016. IAP secretariat support and resources are addressed in the Partnership business plan that is being developed separately. The scope of work and the selection criteria for IAP members are currently under review by the GS2 Strategy and Coordination Group and will be provided to the Partnership in time to facilitate the appointment process.

The appointment process.

It is proposed that IAP members will be appointed by the UN Secretary General through a transparent process under the auspices of the Partnership Board as follows:

- The Executive Committee (EC) will establish a five member Board Working Group (WG), comprising sitting Board members and led by the EC Chairperson.
- The purpose of the WG is to develop a list of around nine panelists¹ to propose to the UNSG for selection. WG members will collectively demonstrate substantial depth and breadth of professional and geographical experience in the themes and action areas of GS2.
- A global call for candidates will be issued by the Partnership's Secretariat, using the agreed SCG criteria for IAP members, IAP scope of work, number of members and Board agreed process for selection etc. Candidates can either apply, or be nominated.

Secretariat Hosted by the World Health Organization and Board Chaired by Mrs Graça Machel

- Administrative procedures for applicants and nominations will be included in the global call.
- The Secretariat will coordinate the application/nomination process including collection of applications and providing administrative support to the WG.
- The WG will vet candidates against the agreed criteria and will submit a list of qualified candidates to the Board Chair. Following her review, the Board Chair will submit a list of up to 15 qualified candidates to the UNSG, including any suggestions for the IAP Chair.
- Both WG members and Secretariat staff would agree to maintain strict confidentiality throughout these proceedings.
- The UNSG will select members of the Independent Accountability Panel and appoint a Chair.
- The names and qualifications of panelists will be published.

This process should be completed by December 31, 2015 so that the Panel can prepare and issue its first report in time for the UNGA and HLPF in 2016.

In order for this very tight timeline to happen the following deadlines would need to be observed:

- Board agreement to appointment process as described above – 17th Annual Board meeting
- EC appoints WG. Oct. 16, 2015
- Call for applications issued by Secretariat. Oct. 22, 2015
- Receipt of Applications. Nov. 18, 2015
- WG reviews. Nov. 18 – Nov. 30, 2015.
- WG submits list to Board Chair. Nov. 30, 2015
- Board Chair submits final list to UNSG. Dec. 7, 2015
- UNSG appoints IAP members and IAP Chair Dec. 20, 2015

Board Decision

The Board is asked to agree to assist the UNSG with the appointment process for the IAP to be completed by December 2015. Therefore the Board is now requested to agree to:

- Delegate to the Executive Committee the process to establish a five person working group comprising current Board members to lead the IAP selection process (the GS2 Strategy and Coordination Committee will provide the WG with the IAP's scope of work and selection criteria IAP members).*
- PMNCH secretariat to support the WG in the selection process.*
- The WG will report a confidential list of nominations for the IAP to the UNSG via the PMNCH Chair. The office of the UNSG will announce the appointment of IAP members and the IAP chair.*

ⁱ The size of the panel is under review by the SCG. It is currently envisaged to be nine members.