
Meeting Notes of the 1st Roll Back Malaria Partnership Board Meeting

Teleconference: 11 April 2016

Attendance:

Mr Elhadj As Sy	Mr Simon Bland	Prof Awa Coll-Seck
Mr Kieran Daly	Mr Paulo Gomes	Dr Richard Nchabi Kamwi
Dr Altaf Lal	Dr Winnie Mpanju-Shumbusho	Mr Ray Nishimoto
Dr David Reddy	Prof Yongyuth Yuthavong	Rear Adm Tim Ziemer

Transition Support Team

Mr Jonah Grunsell Mr Ian Boulton

1. Welcome & Introductions

- 1.1 Admiral Ziemer welcomed the Board members to the call and, with their permission, took on the role of leading the discussion of this first meeting of the incoming Board.
- 1.2 He explained that it was an exciting time for the malaria community as we move into the era of the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the *WHO Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030* (GTS) complimented by the publication of Action and Investment to defeat Malaria 2016-2030 (AIM) by RBM supports the GTS and provides the business case for a strong multisectoral response to achieve the vision of a malaria free world in the next 15-20 years. In Asia, Latin America, and Southern Africa there are several initiatives to eliminate malaria.
- 1.3 The previous RBM Board had undertaken an extensive review of its structures and governance in order to have a Partnership that was fit-for-purpose in this new era. The outgoing Board had, at the 29th Meeting in December 2015, approved significant changes to the Partnership. Adm. Ziemer had been asked by the outgoing Board to co-lead the Transition Process with Minister David Parirenyatwa until the new Board was in place.
- 1.4 The composition of the Board was a key change that was approved and the Board Members on the call had been selected in a rigorous but transparent selection process to bring strong leadership to RBM going forward. There was much to be done in the coming months to maintain and build the momentum for the Partnership and Adm. Ziemer looked forward to working with the other Board Members to achieve this. He thanked them for their willingness and enthusiasm to serve.

- 1.5 Adm. Ziemer noted that there were 12 Board Members on the call, so it was clearly quorum, and thus represented the first meeting of the incoming Board. As such it represented the point of transfer of responsibility for the Partnership from the out-going Board to this one. Adm. Ziemer expressed his personal thanks and appreciation of the commitment and hard work of all the out-going Board Members.
- 1.6 Each Board Member present on the call then introduced themselves and expressed his/her hopes for the success of the revitalised Partnership.

2. Transition Progress To-date

- 2.1 The Transition Support Team (TST) – Jonah Grunsell and Ian Boulton – updated the Board on the progress of the Transition Process to-date.

a. Board Selection:

The Board Selection process, as approved by the out-going Board at its 29th Meeting, had been run over a three-month period. More than 100 nominations had been received and considered by the Board Selection Committee (BSC). The BSC had left one vacancy on the Board for a member from Latin America, as they felt that none of the nominations met the stringent criteria set.

b. Governance:

One of the first tasks of the Board at its first face-to-face meeting will be to approve updated Bye-Laws for the Partnership, to reflect the changes to its governance. These are being drafted by the TST in line with the proposals approved at the 29th Board Meeting.

c. Maintaining Momentum:

There has been an inevitable loss of momentum in the work of RBM since the Secretariat was closed down at the end of 2015 and the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with WHO terminated on 31 December 2015. However, Partners have continued to work enthusiastically together to ensure that malaria is still kept high on the agenda of the global health community. Members of the Malaria Advocacy Working Group (MAWG) have been working together to develop communications and publications to support World Malaria Day (25th April), and this will continue until the new structures are in place and can take over responsibility.

d. Legal Status:

The TST has also been evaluating the options for the legal status of the Partnership with the ending of the MoU with WHO. Three options are under consideration:

- Stand-alone entity (similar to the Medicines for Malaria Venture – MMV).
- Hosting by the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies.
- Hosting by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

Different possible locations for the headquarters of the Partnership are also being evaluated.

The TST is developing a comprehensive paper assessing the various options for the Board to consider at its first face-to-face meeting.

e. Resource Planning:

The TST are developing resourcing plans to cover the rest of the Transition Process. These will include *interim* support for the work of the Board and the Partnership until a new Management Team can be put in place, the resourcing needs of the Management Team for its first year of operation, and essential activities of the Partnership that need to continue while the Transition is completed (especially communications).

Adm. Ziemer noted that at the end of 2015, RBM had ended its hosting relationship with WHO leaving no financial liability. He indicated that there was approximately \$850,000 un-earmarked funds left over that could be transferred to the new legal entity. He noted that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and PMI had committed to continue to support the work of RBM, but the UK and the World Bank had ceased support in the last 12 months and there was work to do to try and bring them back and find new funders to give the Partnership a strong foundation for its work in-the-future.

Adm. Ziemer also noted that the work of the TST is being under-written by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He expressed his appreciation of the excellent work of the TST in moving the transition forward so quickly and smoothly. This appreciation was echoed by other Board Members.

3. Board Roles & Responsibilities

- 3.1 The TST stated that full details of the Board roles-and-responsibilities will be agreed at the face-to-face meeting as part of the approval of the revised bye-laws and governance framework.
- 3.2 The Board, once it had had the opportunity to meet face-to-face and review and approve the governance framework, will then elect a Chair (and Vice Chair) to serve for an agreed period.
- 3.3 It was agreed that role description for the roles of Chair and Vice Chair should be circulated to the Board as part of the proposed governance framework, along with an invitation for the nomination of candidates (incl. self-nomination) at the first face to face Board meeting. If more than one name was proposed, the TST would facilitate a ballot of the Board Members at the first Board meeting.
- 3.4 Dr Reddy noted the high level of support that the TST was giving to the Board at present. He suggested that Board Members should also offer to the TST (and any interim Management Team) any support they can give. He offered the services of Ms Sylvie Fonteilles-Drabek (Executive Vice President, Head of Legal, MMV) for legal advice and guidance. This was welcomed. Admiral Ziemer agreed to continue to serve as interim lead to work with the TST to develop the draft agenda for circulation to the new Board members prior to the meeting in Geneva.

4. Face-to-face Board Meeting

- 4.1 The TST then updated the Board on the planning for the face-to-face meeting. It will be a two-day meeting in Geneva. The TST felt that it was important that a large proportion of Board Members should be able to attend, given the importance of the issues to be discussed and to start the revitalised RBM off on the right footing. So far the dates proposed were not

convenient for a majority of members and therefore dates in late May and in June were asked for. The TST will follow-up on this immediately after the teleconference.

- 4.2 Some Board members asked why the dates offered were all mid-week and whether other days (including weekends) should be considered. The TST undertook to explore this option.
- 4.3 Mr Gomes asked for a full brief on the financial situation of the Partnership to be developed for the meeting. This would show not only money already received, but money pledged and money being negotiated with various donors. This would then allow for a proper discussion of resourcing the Management Team and the Partnership activities at the meeting.
- 4.4 Mr Bland emphasised the need for this meeting to be well planned. Mr Daly asked that Board papers should be circulated well in advance of the meeting to allow for proper consideration and for Board Members to raise issues for clarification ahead of the meeting.
- 4.5 The TST undertook to execute both of these actions. They were also prepared to brief Board Members individually or in groups on specific issues ahead of the meeting, if this would be useful.

5. Closure

- 5.1 There being no other business, Adm. Ziemer closed the meeting, thanking all the participants on the call again for their commitment to RBM and looked forward to meeting them in Geneva at the next meeting.

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