

RBM/B13/2019/MIN.1

Geneva, 24 October 2019

**13th (EXTRAORDINARY) MEETING
OF THE RBM PARTNERSHIP TO END MALARIA BOARD**

Lyon, France / Teleconference, 07.15-08.30 CEST

Thursday 10 October 2019

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE LIST

See Annex 1

I ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Board Chair welcomed the participants to the 13th (extraordinary) Board Meeting.

The Board Chair proposed that the order of the provisional agenda be changed to:

- UNOPS internal audit reports
- Endorsement of the RBM Secretariat enhancements
- Selection of two new Board Members
- Revision of the RBM Bye-Laws
- AOB

II UNOPS INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS

On behalf of **the Finance Committee Chair, the Board Chair** recalled that the audit of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria had been requested in March 2019 and discussed thoroughly by the Board at its April 2019 meeting. The Board Chair also recalled that the audit results had been received from BDO in September 2019 in two reports as the first version had not covered the initial scope of the mandate given by the Board. The Board Chair highlighted that both documents showed no fatal flaws, but highlighted areas for improvement, including strengthening RBM's financial management and accountability.

After discussion, **the Board Members** agreed on the urgency to put in place the necessary financial capability through the hiring of a Finance Manager.

In reply to **the CEO**, in view of the current lack of resources at the RBM Secretariat, **Dr Staley** offered the US President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)'s assistance with the development of the financial report templates. **The Board Chair** thanked Dr Staley for this helpful support.

The Board urgently tasked the Secretariat with the development of the draft job description for the Finance Manager, grade, reporting lines, as well as related budgetary implications, and proposals for an interim solution pending recruitment of a full time post. Delays in strengthening financial capacity could jeopardize RBM funding from donors.

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board took note of this information.

II ENDORSEMENT OF THE RBM SECRETARIAT ENHANCEMENTS

The Board Chair explained that the Board's decision of June 2019 to endorse the RBM Secretariat enhancements (conversion of the Individual Contract Agreement (ICA) contracts to fixed-term, obtaining additional office space and recruitment of a Deputy CEO) had been delayed pending audit findings, as well as due to the change in the cost of the initially-proposed contract conversions.

The Board Chair invited the CEO to summarise the new changes.

The CEO explained that, following the departure of two support team members, the Secretariat and UNOPS had completed additional work on the proposed contract conversions to harmonise job titles, which resulted in an adjustment being made to the classification of the related posts, and thus an increase of an approximately USD 91,000. The Finance Committee recommended the endorsement of the decision with the new financial implications and implementation of the proposed enhancements.

The Board Chair stated that the initially-proposed electronic Decision Point would need to be revised to make reference to the current Board meeting discussion, before issuance. The Board Chair added that prioritisation of enhancements was crucial bearing in mind the urgent necessity to recruit a Finance Manager.

The Board Chair recalled that the next meeting of the Finance Committee was scheduled for 16th October 2019 and requested that robust financial data be provided to support 2020 budget preparation.

Decision Point 01:

Based on the discussions held at the 13th (Extraordinary) Board Meeting on 10 October 2019, the RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board approved the proposed Secretariat enhancements:

- **the conversions of personnel on Individual Contract Agreement (ICA) contracts to fixed-term contracts,**
- **the increased office space and**
- **the recruitment of a deputy CEO position (up to grade D1, to be determined upon the final scope and TOR of the position).**

The Secretariat was mandated with the immediate issuance of this decision in an electronic format.

III BOARD ROTATION

The Board Chair invited the Vice Board Chair to provide an update on the Board Selection Committee work undertaken to select two new Board Members and the required decision point.

The Vice Board Chair referred to the board rotation document previously circulated to Board Members and recalled the Board decision at its April 2019 meeting to replace 2 Board members.

The Vice Board Chair recalled that a Board Selection Committee (BSC) group had been established and held two meetings. He recalled that the call for nominations originally set for mid-June, had been extended to mid-August 2019, and that 18 candidates (11 women and 7 men) applied. He confirmed that based on the grading matrix, the BSC recommended putting forward the nominations of Dr Diane Gashumba, Minister of Health of the Republic of Rwanda, and Dr Marijke Wijnroks, Chief of Staff, Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to the RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board, and to keep the remaining candidates on the reserve list for 2020 Board rotations and pending the revision of the RBM Bye-Laws. He explained that Board Members were being asked to endorse the draft electronic decision shared.

Dr Staley proposed to modify the electronic Decision Point to allow the Board to expand by 4 seats instead of 2.

After discussion, with one objection, **Board Members** agreed to proceed immediately with appointing Dr Gashumba and Dr Wijnroks, and to consider the increase in Board size (including on competency-based selections) during the upcoming revision of the RBM Bye-Laws.

Decision Point 02:

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board, following the recommendation of the Board Selection Committee, approved the following nominations to the RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board:

- **Dr Diane Gashumba, Minister of Health of the Republic of Rwanda**
- **Dr Marijke Wijnroks, Chief of Staff, Global Fund to fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria**

The Secretariat was mandated with the immediate issuance of this decision in an electronic format.

IV REVISION OF RBM BYE-LAWS

The Board Chair announced that a small working group would be set up to review the current RBM Bye-Laws for discussion and review at the November Board meeting.

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board took note of this update.

V AOB

Agenda for the November Board Meeting

The Board Chair invited all Board Members to share any specific priority topics to be added to the November Board Meeting agenda, by 16th October 2019.

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board took note of this information.

Update from UNOPS on the termination of the hosting arrangement for the StopTB Partnership

The Board Chair invited Mr Axelsson to provide an update on the news relating to the precipitous termination of the hosting arrangement between UNOPS and StopTB Partnership.

Mr Axelsson explained that UNOPS had hosted StopTB for a number of years. He confirmed that there had been a difference of opinion relating to the renewal of various long-term agreements, which resulted in a conflict between the requests from the StopTB Partnership Board and UNOPS's ability to comply with its legal framework. He added that, as a consequence, UNOPS had been forced to consider disengagement via a productive dialogue.

Mr Axelsson stressed that this was a regrettable situation and that UNOPS would be providing the necessary support to ensure a smooth transition to a new host. He invited Board Members to have separate discussions, if necessary, to provide more detailed information.

Dr Staley announced that he would circulate an email communication for Board Members' information regarding the StopTB/UNOPS situation in order to prepare for a more detailed discussion at the November Board meeting.

After discussion, **Board Members** shared their concerns and agreed that in view of this development, it was necessary to reassess RBM's risk analysis by including related content on the hosting arrangement.

The CEO confirmed that the Secretariat had already begun the revision of the risk log to cover such an eventuality.

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board took note of this update.

* * *

ATTENDANCE LIST

RBM Board Members

1. **BARAKAT Maha, Board Chair**
2. **BLAND Simon, Vice Board Chair**
3. DALY Kieran
4. KAMWI Richard Nchabi
5. MPANJU-SHUMBUSHO Winnie
6. NISHIMOTO Ray
7. REDDY David
8. ROSES Mirta
9. STALEY Kenneth
10. SY As
11. YUTHAVONG Yongyuth
12. MATTA Issa, WHO Alternate

Advisers

1. DE RONGHE Meg, Adviser to Kieran Daly
2. GOLDMAN VAN NOSTRAND Lisa, Adviser to Ray Nishimoto

Absent With Apology:

1. ALONSO Pedro
2. LAL Altaf

RBM Ex Officio Board Members

1. AXELSSON William, UNOPS

RBM Secretariat

1. DIALLO Abdourahmane, CEO
2. BOARON Lilya, Assistant to the CEO and Board Chair
3. MATHIEU GOTCH Clara, COO

* * * * *