

Geneva, September 2024

RBM/B31/2024/xx

MINUTES

31st MEETING¹ OF THE RBM PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Virtual via Zoom

15.00-18.00 CEST, 4 September 2024

ATTENDANCE LIST

1. The **Board Chair** opened the meeting and welcomed participants², in particular new Board Member Ayo Ipinmoye (Civil Society) and Alternate Board Member Hamza Djibo (Civil Society), following their appointment to the Board on 1 September 2024.

ITEM I ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA [RBM/B31/2024/01]

Declarations of interest [RBM/B31/2024/02]

2. The **Board Chair** invited Board Members to declare any conflicts of interest and, subsequently, noted that no conflicts of interest had been raised at the meeting. The **Board Chair** noted that no objections had been received to the list contained in [RBM/B31/2024/03](#).

Adoption of the agenda - for decision

3. The **Board Chair** presented the revised agenda, as set out in [RBM/B31/2024/01](#), for decision.
4. The **Board** adopted the agenda.

DECISION POINT DP01 – Adoption of Agenda

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board adopted the agenda as circulated.

ITEM II 30th BOARD MEETING FOLLOW-UP

a) Tabling of minutes

5. The **Governance Officer** informed the Board that comments had been received from one Board Member in relation to the 30th meeting minutes, as circulated under document [RBM/B31/2024/04](#), and presented the proposed amendment to the Board.
6. The **Board** formally approved the minutes.

¹ Please find here the [full set of meeting slides](#) presented during the 31st Board Meeting.

² Please find here the [attendance list](#) of the 31st Board Meeting.

DECISION POINT DP02 – 30th Board meeting minutes

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board formally approved the 30th Board meeting minutes.

b) Status of decision points

7. The **Governance Officer** presented an update to the Board on the status of the implementation of the decisions taken at the 30th Board meeting (see [Decision Points](#)) as contained in document [RBM/B31/2024/04](#).
8. The **Board** noted the update.

ITEM III CEO UPDATE

CEO vision

9. The **CEO** presented an update on the Secretariat's progress since the May 2024 Board meeting, including budget expenditure and positive audit outcomes, as well as outlining his vision as CEO for the next 5 years.
10. Under his vision, the **CEO** explained how he aimed to transform the RBM Partnership into a more influential, impactful, and adaptable partnership that can leverage the Big Push to drive progress towards malaria elimination over the next five years, with a focus on:
 - (i) Positioning RBM as the go-to partnership for convening, coordinating, and driving innovation in the malaria space,
 - (ii) Embracing a multi-sectoral approach by engaging different sectors (e.g. agriculture, education, and infrastructure) and seeking intersectionality between malaria and other issues (such as climate change and youth engagement),
 - (iii) Ensuring global, regional, and local relevance and impact, and
 - (iv) Driving agility, efficiency, and being fit-for-purpose at the Secretariat by aligning its structure and funding with the Partnership's evolving needs.
11. The **CEO** also indicated that it would be necessary to reexamine the structure of the Secretariat to ensure it is sufficiently agile and efficient to meet the Partnership's needs.
12. **Board members** responded positively to the CEO's vision, welcoming the progress achieved in terms of strategic links and integration with the Big Push and encouraged continued focus on collaboration, coordination, and measurable outcomes. There was also broad support for enhancing grassroots and regional engagement and for integrating climate and political approaches into the strategy. In addition, they emphasized the importance of highlighting the economic impact and benefits of malaria elimination and stressed the need to ensure that the Partnership's priorities align with its capacity to deliver.

ITEM IV PARTNER COMMITTEE REFORMS

13. As requested by the Board at its 30th meeting (see [Decision Points](#)), the **CEO** introduced the discussion on ongoing reforms focused on improving coordination across different Partner Committees and Working Groups, as contained in document [RBM/B31/2024/06](#).

CRSPC reforms

14. Following the CEO's outline of the reforms, the **CRSPC Co-Chair** provided more details on the strategic and operational aspects of the reforms, as contained in the meeting slides, and the focus on enhancing the quality and delivery of technical assistance, improving resource mobilization efforts, and strengthening internal communication and collaboration. In addition, she referred to the possibility to refine the reform proposals during their implementation.
15. The **Board** supported the CRSPC reforms and focused its feedback on the need for clarity on the CRSPC role in resource mobilization, the proposed introduction of an opt-out mechanism for sharing technical assistance deliverables, and the need to demonstrate the impact of the CRSPC technical assistance while also moving towards country independence. The **CEO** and **CRSPC Co-Chair** indicated a willingness to continue refining the CRSPC reform proposals based on the Board's input and feedback.

ARMPC/SCPC Merger

16. The **CEO** detailed the ongoing progress of the ARMPC/SCPC merger, as contained in document [RBM/B31/2024/06](#), ahead of the merged committee becoming operational in January 2025. This included the proposed Committee name, the continuity of the current committees' leadership and the timeline for delivering the merged committee's terms of reference and 2025 work plan ahead of the December 2024 Board meeting. The current ARMPC and SCPC Co-Chairs complemented this by providing examples of ongoing actions to ensure a smooth transition during the merger, including alignment with the Secretariat and co-organization of events at UNGA and the World Health Summit, among others.
17. The **Board** supported the proposed approach to maintain the current ARMPC and SCPC Co-Chairs to lead the merged committee until the end of their terms and also suggested switching the name of the Committee to Advocacy, Resource Mobilisation, and Communications Partner Committee (ARCPC).

Working Groups strengthening

18. The **CEO** detailed the ongoing progress of Working Group strengthening, as contained in document [RBM/B31/2024/06](#), including repositioning them within the Partnership, updating the relevant governance documents, streamlining funding, enhancing collaboration and representation in Partner Committees, and providing stronger Secretariat support. In complement, the **WG Co-Chairs** representing Case Management Working Group and Social and Behaviour Change welcomed the progress in increasing the visibility of WGs and highlighted the steps underway to strengthen WG alignment with the rest of the Partnership through increased engagement with the Board, the establishment of the RBM Partnership Strategic Coordination Steering Group and the development of a collective workplan for 2025.
19. The **Board** supported the ongoing strengthening of Working Groups within the Partnership, and a suggestion was made to develop a roster of PC and WG participants to further improve transparency and coordination.
20. The **CEO** acknowledged the complexities of WG funding modalities and noted he would continue to engage WG Co-Chairs and Coordinators to better understand possibilities. In addition, he reiterated that the Secretariat would lead in ensuring coordination and alignment of activities across the Partnership to track progress and maximize impact.

ITEM V BIG PUSH UPDATE [RBM/B31/2024/07]

21. The **CEO** opened the discussion on the Big Push referring to the intensive work undertaken by the Secretariat and BCG consultants since the last Board meeting, with RBM taking a leading
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role in driving the initiative forward. In particular, he explained the RBM role as custodian and its implications for the Partnership in terms of coordinating, convening and communicating.

22. The **Board Chair** reiterated that the work done since May had positioned RBM to engage with Ministers and stakeholders about the Big Push, with the Partnership now seen as the thought leader and champion of this initiative. In addition, she emphasized the importance of all partners integrating elements of the Big Push into their work.
23. The **BCG Consultants** provided a brief presentation, highlighting the extensive consultations they have had with countries, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and global partners to understand their challenges and opportunities. In addition, they informed the Board that a draft of the Big Push plan would be ready by the Board's December 2024 meeting, with the goal of engaging on it with African leaders at the AU Summit in February 2025.
24. The **Board** supported RBM's role as the custodian of the Big Push, but also referred to the importance of aligning the Big Push initiative with RBM's overall strategy and work plan. In response, the **CEO** noted that as custodian, RBM would be responsible for tracking progress and engaging with partners to support this. In addition, he said that the Big Push plan would lay a foundation for the development of RBM's new 2026-2030 strategy.

ITEM VI AOB

Upcoming meetings

25. Following the Board's endorsement in May 2024 to explore the feasibility of holding the December Board meeting in Colombia, the **CEO** updated the Board on the proposed dates, format and venue of the meeting in Bogota, Colombia, and the preliminary discussions with the Americas Board representatives and PAHO on the draft itinerary for 4-6 December 2024. The **Board** expressed strong support for holding the meeting in Colombia, recognizing the opportunity to promote south-south collaboration and generate learning opportunities across the Partnership.
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