

# RBM Executive Committee Teleconference - Minutes

July 1, 2009

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## **PARTICIPANTS**

### **EC Members:**

EC Chair – Matt Lynch – JHUCCP  
Board Chair - Minister Kapembwa Simbao – MoH Zambia  
Multilateral Development Partners – Valentina Buj – UNICEF  
OECD Donor Countries – Admiral Timothy Ziemer – USA  
Private Sector – Mikkel Vestergaard Frandsen - Vestergaard Frandsen  
WHO – Sergio Spinaci  
RBM Partnership Secretariat – Awa Coll-Seck, Thomas Teuscher  
Foundations – Gabrielle Fitzgerald – BMGF  
NGO- Uzo Gilpin

### **Observers:**

UN Special Envoy's Office – Alan Court, Suprotik Basu  
Multilateral Development Partners - Maryse Pierre-Louis - World Bank

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### **Adoption of EC Teleconference Agenda July 2009**

The proposed EC Teleconference agenda was adopted with the addition of an update by the Executive Director on the Board Retreat.

### **Adoption of June 2009 EC Teleconference Minutes**

Minutes circulated for the June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 EC Teleconference were adopted.

### **Update on Global Fund Board seat**

The RBM Executive Director updated the EC on the progress made with the Partners' Constituency, the shared Global Fund Partnership Board seat. Awa Coll-Seck reported that the Global Fund Secretariat has provided significant support to the three Partnerships by providing briefings on Board membership and TORs for the standing and Ad Hoc Committees. In addition, it was explained that Board related documents from all committees would be shared across with the Partners' Constituency and will be managed by the communications focal point, identified by the Board member.

Outcomes of the meetings among the RBM, Stop TB, and UNITAID Executive Directors were presented in a pre-read and reported to the EC for discussion. It was explained that representation on the Board Seat, Alternate Board Seat and Committees membership will rotate every two Board Meetings, or on an annual basis. Moving forward, RBM will hold the Alternate Board Seat for the November 2009 and April 2010 Global Fund Board Meetings and rotate to the Board Seat for the Nov 2010 and April 2011 Board meetings.

There was EC support for the agreed upon arrangement of rotating seats and Awa Coll-Seck was acknowledged for the work she and the RBM Secretariat have put into this process and the negotiated solution. Minister Simbao and Mikkel Vestergaard raised an issue of a potential missed opportunity with RBM not in the Board Seat for the Nov 2009 and April 2010, as the RBM Partnerships approaches 2010 targets. Further discussion led by Alan Court suggested an alternative opportunity of holding the seat during the Nov 2010 and April 2011 time period as RBM

is monitoring and reporting on progress made toward these targets. Awa Coll-Seck clarified that this arrangement has already been submitted to the Global Fund Secretariat for comment.

#### *Board Representation*

There was robust discussion and strong support among EC members that a shared seat on the Global Fund Board and in Global Fund committees implied appropriate consensus building, position development and representation within RBM and across the three Partnerships. The EC agreed that a clear external and internal communications plan was necessary to ensure consensus and unified positions within the RBM Partnership and among RBM, Stop TB and UNITAID. Matt Lynch suggested a process be outlined to define how information would be shared within the RBM Partnership, consensus be developed, positions would be agreed upon, further consensus be developed among the three Partnerships and represented to the Global Fund. Tim Ziemer requested that the communications process address how a RBM position will be created if there is not full consensus across the RBM Partnership. Tim Ziemer stressed that the process must ensure appropriate representation for a unified RBM Partnership voice and the practice of picking and choosing inconsistent positions will compromise the effectiveness of the RBM voice at the Global Fund level. The Private Sector offered to share the communications plan that their delegation uses to ensure consensus building and unified positions and encouraged other delegations to do the same.

Mikkel Vestergaard pointed out that RBM would have to meet to develop consensus prior to the Global Fund Board Meetings and suggested RBM Board meetings be scheduled before Global Fund Board Meetings to meet this need. Gabrielle Fitzgerald supported this suggestion. While the EC did agree that building Partnership positions for the Global Fund was not the focus of the RBM Board meetings, this proposed schedule may provide an opportunity to address Global Fund issues.

The EC Chair acknowledged the level of staffing required to manage this shared Board seat will be significant and will likely require a full-time position. The EC requested, as part of the draft communications plan, the Secretariat outline options for staffing and propose either a reallocation of existing funds or estimate the additional budget support needed. While the EC considered the need for a subcommittee of the Board be created to monitor this process, it was decided that the required support structure would be best assessed after engagement with the Global Fund Board has started. The EC decided, if necessary they could informally appoint members to this task, but a subcommittee would not be established presently.

Awa Coll-Seck agreed that the Secretariat will draft a communications plan, staffing requirements and budget to share with the EC in the next 2- 3 weeks. The EC will do one round of electronic review and comment and a second draft will be circulated for discussion on the August EC teleconference.

#### *Committee Representation*

The EC was asked to endorse the proposal for HWG to represent RBM and the Partners Constituency in the Program Implementation Committee (PIC), formerly the Portfolio Committee. Protik Basu explained that although the HWG has not discussed taking this proposal forward, initial conversations among HWG members have been supportive. He stressed that the HWG would be equally diligent about representing the RBM Partnership and would also require a communications process be outlined. Protik Basu suggested that with EC support, he could work with the HWG to draft a communications plan and present it to the EC for discussion.

Tim Ziemer acknowledged the breadth and depth of knowledge and experience that our representation must have on this committee and suggested more work is needed to look at the

Global Fund committee guidelines and committee selection process to identify the best representation. The EC Chair asked that more information on the Global Fund selection process and proposal for representation be included on the next EC call. The HWG will work with the Secretariat to provide more information on how this committee membership would be managed.

The Private Sector delegation added that they looked forward to further discussion on how other committees would be represented and specifically if RBM can negotiate membership on the Market Dynamics Committee.

**Decisions / Next Steps:**

- The Secretariat will draft a communications plan, staffing requirements and budget to share with the EC in the next 2- 3 weeks.
- The EC will do one round of electronic review and comment and a second draft will be circulated for discussion on the August EC teleconference.
- The Secretariat will draft an EC pre-read to include Global Fund committee selection process, information on other committees requiring representation and proposal for representation be included on the next EC call.
- The HWG will work with the Secretariat to provide more information on how this committee membership would be managed. Information will be included in the pre-read and discussion for the August EC Teleconference.

**17<sup>th</sup> RBM Partnership Board Meeting Dates**

In response to concerns raised about overlapping meeting schedules and difficulties with travel for the Board approved dates of the 17<sup>th</sup> RBM Partnership Board Meeting, Nov 15-17 in Brazil, a pre-read was presented to the EC, providing a schedule of other key meetings in November and two options for a December RBM Board Meeting.

There was EC consensus that the approved November 15-17 dates for the meeting should be reconsidered. The EC Chair suggested, in light of the previous discussion on the potential value of having the RBM Board meeting before the Global Fund Meeting, that October 20-22 date be discussed as a third option. Tim Ziemer encouraged the Executive Director to communicate this potential option with the Brazilian Government before presenting any of the options to the full RBM Board for decision.

In addition, it was reiterated that while the RBM Board meeting does provide a valuable option to discuss Global Fund issues, it must prioritize the broader governance issues and needs of the RBM Partnership. Mikkel Vestergaard pointed out that an October Board date is important not only to address Global Fund issues, but also necessary to put the budget and 2010/2011 Partnership workplan in place in a timely manner.

The Secretariat will present a series of dates, including October 20-22, to the Brazilian Government. After the Brazilian Government provides feedback, the Secretariat will draft a memo with proposed new dates for the 17<sup>th</sup> RBM Board Meeting and will send to the EC Chair to circulate to the full Board for electronic vote.

**Decisions / Next Steps:**

- The Secretariat will discuss a series of dates, including October 20-22, to the Brazilian Government and draft a memo with proposed dates for the Board Meeting to be sent to the EC Chair.
- Matt Lynch will circulate the memo to the full Board for electronic vote.

### **High- Level Reporting Event**

Two pre-reads were circulated outlining progress-to-date and outcomes of the recent series of meetings led by the MERG. The EC Chair opened the discussion with the suggestion that there needs to be clear TORs for the Board Subcommittee and the Working Group engagement in the High-Level Reporting process. Matt Lynch reported that the MERG feels data must be credible and harmonized with other partners' reports and that the MERG and MAWG are working together to build a reporting process and external strategy.

Maryse Pierre-Louis suggested, to maximize visibility of events and secure necessary resources, a letter should be drafted and sent to heads of partner agencies. Awa Coll-Seck agreed that the Secretariat will draft a letter to circulate, after the external strategy is further developed.

Awa Coll-Seck reported that the MERG is developing TORs and a budget and will present it to the Board Subcommittee for review. In addition, she informed the EC that the Subcommittee needs broader representation. Mikkel Vestergaard nominated Jessica Rockwood to represent the Private Sector Delegation on the Subcommittee. Maryse Pierre-Louis also asked that The World Bank be represented on the Subcommittee as well.

Matt Lynch proposed the first teleconference of the Board Subcommittee should be held in July to begin organizing. Gabrielle Fitzgerald supported this suggestion and stressed the importance of starting to build the external strategy.

#### **Decisions / Next Steps:**

- Further nominations by delegations to be involved with the Board Subcommittee can be sent to the Secretariat.
- The Board Subcommittee is urged to hold their first teleconference in July to discuss external strategy and update the EC on the August teleconference.
- The Secretariat will draft a letter to heads of Partner agencies with the guidance of the Board Subcommittee.

### **Update on Resistance Management Strategy**

Awa Coll-Seck reported that Thomas Teuscher has been working with WHO Leadership and the Co-Chairs of the WIN and Case Management Working Groups to move forward with the development of a resistance strategy. Thomas Teuscher reported to the EC that discussions with WHO and the working groups have resulted in better alignment and a consultation with the Private Sector Delegation about expectations has been taken into account. An options paper will be drafted by the Secretariat and Working Groups to be considered for approval at the November Board Meeting.

Tim Zeimer asked the EC to carefully consider what the purpose, goals, objectives and desired outcomes of this process is and clearly define RBM's role in terms of how it supports ongoing work in this area. In addition, he noted that this is an ongoing commitment, aligned with other partners, and RBM must assess how the Partnership most effectively keeps resistance high on the priority list. Tim Ziemer reported while PMI will continue to fund ongoing work on resistance he was not under the impression that PMI had committed additional funds to this process. Matt Lynch agreed that this does not require a new mechanism, but rather keeping resistance as a working group priority.

Sergio Spinaci stated, coalitions working on resistance initiatives are not new but RBM could add value to the process by expanding the discussion or catalyzing work to address issues of both

insecticides and treatment. Mikkel Vestergaard reminded the EC that the Board asked for a comprehensive response and moving forward, monitoring and reporting should address this as a comprehensive strategy.

Matt Lynch pointed out that there was a difference in wording of the Board decision point in the EC Teleconference pre-read as compared to the Board decision points circulated after the May Board Meeting. He asked the Secretariat to reconcile the wording of the pre-read to reflect the approved decision point.

Sergio Spinaci asked for clarification on expectations for the November Board Meeting and if a paper is expected, the EC should consider the resource requirements. Matt Lynch stated that working groups should be including these activities in their workplans and they should be reflected in working group budgets.

**Decisions / Next Steps:**

- The Secretariat to reconcile the wording of the pre-read to reflect the approved decision point.
- The WIN and Case Management Working Groups will share updates on workplans and budgets, as they pertain to developing the resistance management strategy.

**Update on COI Policy**

The EC Chair circulated an email update prior to the EC teleconference reporting communications he had with Alex Ross of WHO in early June regarding moving the COI policy forward and although it had been agreed that WHO would send a revision of the policy by June 16<sup>th</sup>, it has not yet been sent. The Private Sector Delegation put forward their ongoing commitment to move this process forward. Sergio suggested setting up a call with two or three interested parties to propose new language on the controversial areas. Julian Fleet, Matt Lynch, Sergio Spinaci, Kate Taylor and Mikkel Vestergaard have offered to participate in a teleconference next week. Matt agreed to circulate a teleconference date and facilitate the call early in the week of July 6-11.

**Decisions / Next Steps:**

- The EC Chair will schedule and facilitate a teleconference to discuss moving the COI Policy forward, early during the week of July 6-11.

**Update on External Evaluation**

Awa reported to the EC that the Performance Subcommittee will be meeting on Thursday to discuss the External Evaluation progress and will circulate an update.

**Decisions / Next Steps:**

- The Performance Subcommittee will circulate an update to the EC after the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**Update on Board Retreat**

Awa Coll-Seck stated the current plan for the Board Retreat was to be held in September, schedule for two days, and would likely fall during the week of September 14-18. The EC, in consultation with Dalburg and the Performance Subcommittee will be responsible for developing the agenda.

**Next EC Teleconference: August 5, 2009**