

**Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Advisory Committee
of the UN Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund
Friday, 22 February 2019, 02:00 to 04:00 p.m., New York**

Chairpersons

Ms. Josette Sheeran, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Haiti
Ms. Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, Director, Sustainable Development Unit, EOSG

Advisory Committee Board Members

Canada: Mr. Pierre-David Jean, First Secretary
Chile: Ms. Leyla Vásquez, Third Secretary (*was unable to attend; met with the Office of the Special Envoy after the meeting*)
France: Mr. Walid Fouque, First Secretary
Japan: Mr. Satoshi Ezoe, Counsellor; Ms. Chihiro Mitsuda
The Republic of Korea: Mr. Doyeon Won, Counsellor
Norway: Ms. Siri Birkeland
United Kingdom: Ms. Alistair Kelsey, Second Secretary

Board Member Observer

Haiti: Mr. Willy Louis, Minister Counsellor
USAID: Mr. Omer Imtiazuddin, Senior Innovative Financing and Market Advisor

UN System

Mr. Mamadou Diallo, DSRSG of MINUJUSTH/RC/HC
Mr. Fernando Hiraldo, UNDP Country Director in Haiti
Mr. Felipe Munevar, UNOPS Director and Representative in Haiti

Ex-Officio Members

Ms. Jennifer Topping, Executive Coordinator, MPTF Office
Ms. Cristina Bertarelli, Programme Analyst of the Cholera MPTF Secretariat

Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti

Mr. Marc Vincent, Director for Cholera Response and Innovative Financing in Haiti
Mr. Ramsey C. Ben-Achour, Special Assistant and Humanitarian Adviser
Mr. Jean-Daniel Cloutier, Senior Programme Assistant

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions of the Advisory Committee and invited participants
2. Introductory Remarks from the Government of Haiti
3. Update on the work of the Office of the Special Envoy
4. Update on the Strategic Assessment Mission and MINUJUSTH Transition

5. Presentation of the Funding Framework and financial status of the UN Haiti Cholera Response Trust Fund
6. Discussion and motion on the Extension of the Fund beyond October 2019
7. Review of proposals and fund allocation decisions
8. AOB
9. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment of the Third Advisory Committee meeting

Opening of the 3rd Advisory Committee Meeting on the UN Haiti Cholera Response MPTF

Ms. Sheeran, Special Envoy for Haiti, opened the 3rd Advisory Committee Meeting of the UN Haiti Cholera Response MPTF welcoming the participants, Board Members and the Observers. Ms. Sheeran expressed her appreciation to the participants for the continuous support since the inception of the Fund. Ms. Sheeran then proceeded with the Agenda for the meeting and gave the floor to the representative of the Government of Haiti for some introductory remarks.

Introductory Remarks from the Government of Haiti

The representative of the Government of Haiti, Mr. Willy Louis, Minister Counsellor, welcomed the initiative of the Special Envoy in convening the 3rd Advisory Committee Meeting of the UN Haiti Cholera Response MPTF, and conveyed the regrets of the Minister of Public Health and Population, Dr. Marie Greta Roy Clement, who was unable to travel to New York to attend the meeting due to the delicate situation in Haiti. Mr. Louis extended the gratitude of his Government to the Committee, as well as to the Special Envoy for her leadership, collaboration efforts with Haitian authorities and continued dedication to cholera elimination. He also thanked the Special Envoy for her work to ensure that sustainable projects are implemented, which benefits cholera victims and whole Haitian communities. The Minister Counsellor hoped that we would not only eliminate the disease but also help Haiti with its development efforts. Mr. Louis reaffirmed his Government's support for the two tracks of the New UN Approach to Cholera in Haiti and underscored the importance of carrying on the implementation of this strategy.

Update on the work of the Office of the Special Envoy

The Special Envoy updated the participants on the work her Office to help eliminate cholera since she was appointed by the Secretary-General 18 months ago. She commended the contributions of Member States, which allowed the UN to stream cholera response funds through the MPTF to ensure a coherent approach is taken to end the epidemic. With multiple and diverse contribution sources, the Fund has allowed international partners to respond to some of the most immediate needs in the context of both Track 1 and 2 efforts. The Special Envoy described that US \$3 million has been spent to bolster Track 1 and that \$1.2 million was allocated to Track 2 in the pilot phase of community assistance projects. In the current context where Track 1 funding is secured until the end of the year, funds should be allocated

to Track 2 efforts to provide direct resources to victim communities and alleviate the suffering caused by cholera. The Special Envoy shed light on the positive trend of declining cholera transmission rates, which have decreased to the lowest level since the 2010 outbreak. The Special Envoy indicated that experts and past experiences have demonstrated that ending cholera is possible, yet constant vigilance and clean water infrastructure investment are essential to maintain zero cases. She commended the work of international partners, our “new heroes” in the fight against cholera, namely UNICEF, which has brought along other international partners and NGOs, as well as PAHO and WHO. Ms. Sheeran stated that the cohesive work done so far is something to be proud of.

Looking ahead, the Special Envoy provided a quick overview of the Haitian Government’s Long Term Plan, which ensures that the elimination of cholera remain a top priority for the country. She praised the Government for the High Level Cholera Meeting held last November. Co-chaired by the Special Envoy and the Prime Minister, the meeting saw the Ministers of Health, Finance, the Director General of DINEPA and the Governor of the Central Bank, as well as, senior representatives from the international community in Haiti endorse the plan. According to the detailed Plan, funding requirements for Track 1 are as follow:

- Track 1a: US \$62.4 million for elimination and 3 years of verification
- Track 1b: US \$334.6 million to strengthen access to water and sanitation and healthcare reinforcement

On plans to secure funding for Track 1a efforts in the 2020-2022 period, the Special Envoy provided an update on the Development Impact Bond (DIB), which could cover \$26 million of the needed funds. Significant progress has been made in exploring the bond thanks to the invaluable contribution from USAID, a leader in this kind of investment model, towards a feasibility study led by Dalberg Advisors. Ms. Sheeran mentioned that interest from potential investors, like Munich Re and UBS Optimus, and the positive vetting by the feasibility study indicates that a “Pay for Success” model could work in the context of current efforts to eliminate cholera in Haiti.

On Track 2, the Special Envoy explained that funds intended for helping victims are extremely hard to raise. Yet through our joint efforts and an efficient use of only a “small pool of money” to help communities, we are changing the narrative on what can possibly be done. During her last visit to Haiti, Ms. Sheeran paid tribute to victims during the inauguration of the market in Crête Brûlée, one of five completed pilot phase Track 2 projects in the Mirebalais commune. This project represented a concrete example of how a Track 2 investment could positively impact lives in a community where cholera had hit hard. Ms. Sheeran thanked UNDP for the work done during this first phase in Mirebalais, the commune where the cholera outbreak began. Moving forward with this model that has proven successful, the Special Envoy explained that the next phase would be founded on a joint proposal involving UNDP and UNOPS. The Special Envoy thanked the Fund contributors for the resources already mobilized, inviting Member States to continue participating in this joint effort.

The Special Envoy then gave the floor to Ms. Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, Director, Sustainable Development Unit, EOSG for her remarks on the Strategic Assessment Mission and the transition from peacekeeping to a new UN presence in Haiti.

Update on the Strategic Assessment Mission and MINUJUSTH Transition

Ms. Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, Co-Chair of the UN Haiti Cholera Response MPTF Advisory Committee, invited the audience to look at the new plan in a holistic way, intensifying the work on development, peace and sustainability for the future, as outlined in the Agenda 2030. Recalling Security Council resolution 2410 (2018), Ms. Gyles-McDonnough informed the Advisory Committee that the Secretariat conducted a Strategic Assessment Mission in Haiti in order to provide recommendations to the Security Council on the UN presence in Haiti post-peacekeeping. Following this thorough and inclusive process, findings show significant progress in stabilizing Haiti, which includes our efforts to strengthen the Haitian National Police. Nevertheless, some challenges remain, in particular regarding political, socio-economic and rule of law elements that require specific attention. Acknowledging the recent instability in Haiti, the Co-Chair highlighted the importance of the UN continuing its work on preparedness to address security challenges as well as on development actions such as efforts to end cholera in Haiti. In addition, Ms. Gyles-McDonnough stated that the UNCT should continue to be instrumental in fostering development in Haiti and achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Presentation of the project proposal by Dr. Mamadou Diallo, DSRSG of MINUJUSTH/RC/HC

- **Project #6 (UNDP/UNOPS) in support of Track 2: "Phase 2 of the community assistance in 4 cholera priority communes (Cap-Haitien area) as part of the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti."**

Requested amount: \$5,579,933.65.

The proposal was presented by Dr. Mamadou Diallo, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, who indicated that building on the positive results of phase 1, UNDP would continue with the consultative process to meet the most urgent needs of communities of victims. By letting community members determine the relevance of potential projects, it is possible for the UN to achieve a positive impact while providing assistance and support to communities and victims. The objective is to now expand this assistance to 20 priority communes, which were among the first and hardest hit by the disease. The project would target 20 Communal Sections in the Artibonite and North Departments, a mix of both rural and urban locations.

In response to comments and questions by Board Members, the Office of the Special Envoy explained that Track 2 projects are determined only through community

discussions, not instructed by top-down government directives, which is why the communities feel a real sense of ownership over the projects. However, projects must detail how they fit within local development plans, to make sure there is cohesion with the “larger picture” and an integration with all structures that exist, whether local, national or international. For instance, we seek to avoid duplication of ongoing Track 1b efforts.

On the question of maintenance over the long term of infrastructure resulting from Track 2 projects, consultations include the development of community plans that ensure that locals can oversee and manage maintenance over the longer term. For example, there is a small vendor fee at the new Crête Brûlée market that allows the community to pay for cleaning and maintenance of the market.

In response to a question on the funding gap for these Track 2 efforts, the Special Envoy explained that we would need to raise a total of approximately US \$34 million to reach all 134 priority communities, which means an additional \$27 million would need to be raised. She explained that the Secretary-General’s preference was that Track 2 work move forward at once and before all of the money could be raised. She hoped that the success of the first phases of Track 2 would convince more donors to come forward.

Following the Q&A with Board Members, the project was approved by consensus. *(The Republic of Korea gave consent by email since its representative had to leave the meeting after the Q&A; Chile gave consent during a one-on-one briefing on 25 February due to its representative being unable to attend the Advisory Committee Meeting)*

Presentation of the-financial status of the cholera response MPTF

Ms. Jennifer Topping, in her capacity as Administrative Agent, updated Advisory Committee Members on the financial status of the UN Haiti Cholera Response MPTF, informing them of the \$9,747,697 million the Fund has so far received from its 42 Contributors. This included the funds resultant from the reallocation of unencumbered MINUSTAH balances further to the invitation from the Secretary-General to Member States, in July 2017, to support the new UN approach to cholera in Haiti. Ms. Topping highlighted that \$4,510,967 of that amount had been transferred to the recipient organizations for projects covering Track 1 and 2. At the end of 2017, \$1,563,805 had been reported in expenditures; the updated figures for 2018 will appear on the MPTF Office Gateway following the annual financial reporting deadline of 30 April. Ms. Topping informed the Committee of the \$5,254,253 available for programming. An additional \$750,000 deposit is expected in May from the second tranche committed by the Government of Qatar.

Discussion and motion on the Extension of the Fund beyond October 2019

The Special Envoy suggested to extend the Fund for 3 more years, through December 2022 to align the timeline to the new Track 2 proposal presented to the Advisory Committee. In addition, the Special Envoy proposed to change the periodicity of project progress reporting from monthly to quarterly. The Board Members supported unanimously the motion both on Fund extension and progress reporting. Ms. Topping, as Fund Administrator, informed the Committee that, further to this decision, the Terms of Reference will be adjusted accordingly.

AOB and Closing remarks

The Special Envoy for Haiti summarized the decision adopted by the Advisory Committee, thanked the Agencies, the Board Members and Observers for their contribution to the cholera response in Haiti, and commended USAID for sharing its expertise on the innovative financing mechanism, conveying her hope of a positive outcome on the "Pay for Success" model in Haiti, with an initial Bond of \$25 million. The Special Envoy concluded by adjourning the meeting at 03:55pm.