



4th Steering Committee Meeting of the Working for Health Programme

**WHO
Avenue Appia 20, CH-1211 Genève
Indian Room**

Wednesday, 9th October 2019, 15:00-17:00

Minutes

WHO

1. Peter Salama, Executive Director, UHC and Life Course (Chair)
2. Jim Campbell Director, Health Workforce Department
3. Paul Marsden, Technical Officer, Health Workforce Department
4. Kenza Zerrou, Technical Officer, Health Workforce Department
5. Ayat Abu-Agla, Consultant, Health Workforce Department

ILO

1. Alette van Leur, Director, Sectoral Policies Department
2. Oliver Liang, Head of Unit, Public and Private Services, Sectoral Policies Department
3. Christiane Wiskow, Health Sector Specialist, Sectoral Policies Department
4. Maren Hopfe, Junior Professional Officer, Sectoral Policies Department

OECD

1. Stefano Scarpetta, Director, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs
2. Nick Tomlinson, Global Health Advisor, Health Division

UN MPTF Office

1. Jennifer Topping, Executive Coordinator, MPTF Office
2. Mari Matsumoto, Portfolio Manager, MPTF Office

NORAD

1. Ingvar Olsen, Policy Director, NORAD
2. Priya Lerberg, Advisor, Norwegian Directorate of Health

SILATECH

1. Faisal Mohamed Al-Emadi, Executive Director of Programs, SILATECH
2. Banan Massoud, Head of Planning and Evaluation, SILATECH

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was chaired by Peter Salama.

Opening remarks and adoption of the agenda

1. The Chair opened the 4th Steering Committee meeting by welcoming OECD, ILO, UNDP-MPTF, NORAD and extending a special welcome to SILATECH as a new member of the Steering Committee, as per paragraph 2.1 of the Operation Manual.
2. It was noted that the 4th Steering Committee meeting objective was to discuss the vision, direction, orientation and adoption of the Working for Health (W4H) programme at all three levels of implementation (country, regional and global).
3. The chair provided brief health workforce and UHC-specific highlights from the recent UNGA meetings in New York.
4. SILATECH were formally introduced to the Steering Committee and provided brief highlights of their work with more than 300 various partners and agencies in creating job and training opportunities for youth and women.

Item 1: Adoption of the 3rd Steering Committee meeting minutes

5. ILO presented a brief overview on action taken along the decision points of the previous meeting. All action points enlisted had been addressed, except for an updated calendar of high-level events (e.g. UNGA) which is under preparation by the technical secretariat.
6. The revised Operation Manual had been circulated to members before the present meeting.
7. NORAD suggested the amendment of:
 - Para 11, to change 'Director of the World Bank' to 'Director of Health and Nutrition of the World Bank'

Decision points:

- The minutes of the last Steering Committee meeting (April 2019) were adopted with amendments mentioned in paragraph 7, above.

Item 2: MPTF Funding Framework

8. The MPTF Office expressed their thanks and appreciation to NORAD and SILATECH for their financial contribution to the Working for Health programme.
9. The MPTF Office briefly introduced the Working for Health MPTF Funding Framework document that had been circulated prior to the meeting, that reflected the latest funding status and allocations.
 - Table 1 covered the fund status (sources of funds) as well as the total funds received by the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent; funds transferred to Participating Organizations; and the current fund balance.
 - Table 2 provides the donor commitment and deposit to date, which are part of formal commitment agreements.
 - Table 3 projects the transfer of funds and allocations to Participating Organizations as approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent
 - Table 4 covered the funds transferred to Participating Organizations to cover costs associated with Secretariat services and overall coordination.The MPTF Office reported that in total, sufficient funding was available to cover the project proposals submitted and to be discussed under item 4.

Decision points:

- Available funding levels for next phase of implementation were approved

Item 3: Working for Health Workplan 2019

10. WHO presented a brief summary of the updated workplan, which now reflects current (approved April 2019), new (the set of concept note submissions for the 9 October meeting) and future anticipated projects (pipeline projects), that would be considered for submission in March/April 2020 for the next round of funding disbursement. A short presentation on the progress of implementation of projects in the approved workplan was provided. To highlight implementation progress across each of the three levels - country, regional and global - specific examples were presented in terms of: (1) ongoing MPTF country support for South Africa to develop a HRH strategy framework aligned with the planned roll-out of the new National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill, to ensure universal health coverage; (2) a fast-tracked process with specialist technical assistance provided to SADC for developing a regional HRH strategy and investment plan, and milestones achieved in terms of multi-sectoral stakeholder consultations held, and (3) the consolidated work of each of the three agencies in establishing a global Health Worker Mobility Platform.
11. OECD mentioned that work started on a concept note at global level with focus on changing skills needs. WHO underlined the relevance of this aspect in the context of health system reforms.

Decision points:

- The technical secretariat was requested to make the narrative on linkages in the workplan between global normative work, and regional and country impact, more explicit.

Item 4: Concept Notes and budget allocation

12. WHO introduced the set of six (6) country concept notes, a continuation of the secretariat concept notes, and related documents that were shared with the Steering Committee prior to the meeting. The countries proposed were **Chad, Benin, Mali, Mauritania, Palestine and Sudan**, which were based on country requests, with special focus on Sahel countries that have potential long term financing from international donors (ex: IFIs, Sahel Alliance, EC). The country concept notes had been jointly developed with countries, as well as country and regional counterparts in WHO and –to the extent possible - ILO, and the technical secretariat. The country concept notes were designed with view to envisage a longer-term multi-phased project, emphasizing the catalytic nature of the W4H programme. The steering committee were asked to review and validate the technical secretariat's approval of each concept note submission. The country Concept Notes were batched into one overall project to meet the MPTF requirements for the transfer of funds for each implementing organisation. The Secretariat concept note was submitted as a separate project proposal.
13. The Concept Notes were discussed in the following order: country level (6) and Secretariat Concept Note (1).

Country level Concept Notes:

SILATECH supported the country concept notes in principle, but raised some general comments:

- Proposed an additional list of potential countries where they are planning to operate to include Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda, Djibouti, Rwanda and Tanzania.
- Welcomed concept notes from Palestine and Sudan, but requested more information and more clarity on outcomes.
- Requested a clear vision on how jobs would be created in each of the countries supported.
- Stated they were unable to support the Mauritania concept note due to internal issues.

- Requested the provision of detailed implementation plans in the coming two months. NORAD supported the new group of countries selected and especially the focus on Sahel. They supported the country concept notes in principle, but raised some general comments:
 - Satisfied to see that risk factors were included – but these could be further adapted with local context in some of the concept notes.
 - Cross-sectorial involvement was sufficiently addressed in most concept notes.
 - Geographical coverage of activities could be more specific in some concept notes
 - Suggested including information about synergies between programmes and activities already carried out by WHO and ILO country offices.
 - NORAD also agreed to fund the Mauritania concept note
 - NORAD will submit any additional comments on the Concept Notes in writing.

Secretariat Concept Note:

WHO re-introduced the Secretariat Concept Note to provide the ongoing technical support needed for the W4H programme.

SILATECH stated they could not support the W4H secretariat concept note without their executive board's approval.

NORAD supported the secretariat concept note.

The MPTF Office informed that the concept notes submitted could be covered by the funds available.

Decision points:

- The SC approved the budget allocation of the concept notes.
- The Concept Notes will be updated according to the SC comments before starting the implementation
- Circulate the list of the 30 countries making the least progress to attaining UHC
- Further discuss with SILATECH the Secretariat Concept Note
- In future, to share all relevant documentation at least three weeks in advance of a Steering Committee meeting, as stated in the Operations Manual.

Item 5: Resource Mobilisation Strategy and Vision

14. WHO presented its latest initiative on resource mobilization for health workforce skills, education and jobs, which was linked to ongoing EIB and WB discussions on a new financing facility for human capital investment. Guidance was sought from the Steering Committee on the project resource mobilisation strategy and approach, with a further request made to NORAD and SILATECH to take a strong lead in attracting additional member states and donors to contribute to, and partner with the Working for Health programme. A proposal to invite the World Bank (Health and Nutrition Division) to participate in the Steering Committee as an observer was debated. A two-stage process was suggested, in terms of inviting them as observers first to have them included in the conversation and subsequently exploring opportunities for their commitments as a donor with the option to become a Steering Committee member.

Decision points:

- Revise and develop the resource mobilisation strategy paper, which should be discussed in the next Steering Committee meeting in March 2020.
- Steering Committee members welcomed inviting the World Bank Director of Health and Nutrition as an observer to the Steering Committee.

Item 6: Any other business and conclusions

15. The next Steering Committee meeting was scheduled to take place end of March 2020 and would be hosted and chaired by OECD in Paris, France. The exact dates would be determined based on the availabilities of the Members.