

**Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee  
of the UN Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund  
Tuesday, 29 October 2019, 03:30 to 05:00 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. Méliné Svadjian, Senior Advisor  
**Chile:** Ms. Leyla Vásquez, Third Secretary  
**France:** Ms. Andréa Segura, Attaché  
**Japan:** Mr. Satoshi Ezoe, Counsellor – in remote connection  
**The Republic  
of Korea:** Mr. Yoo Byung Seok, Counsellor  
**Norway:** Name to be Confirmed  
**United Kingdom:** Representative in remote connection – Name to be confirmed

**Board Member Observer**

**Haiti:** H.E. Ambassador Mr. Patrick Saint Hilaire, Permanent Representative  
Mr. Fritzner Gaspard, Deputy Permanent Representative  
Mr. Willy Louis, Minister Counsellor

**UN System**

Mr. Fernando Hiraldo, UNDP Country Director in Haiti, acting as DSRSG BINUH/RC/HC  
Mr. Felipe Munevar, UNOPS Director and Representative in Haiti

**Ex-Officio Members**

Ms. Jennifer Topping, Executive Coordinator, MPTF Office  
Ms. Eva Saenz, Portfolio Manager  
Ms. Cristina Bertarelli, Secretariat Support

**Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti**

Mr. Ramsey C. Ben-Achour, Representative of the Special Envoy  
Ms. Dianne Fairweather, Senior Programme Assistant

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions of the Advisory Committee and invited participants
2. Introductory Remarks from the Government of Haiti

3. Situation Update in Haiti and Updated on the work of the Office of the Special Envoy
4. BINUH the New UN Mission in Haiti
5. Presentation of the Funding Framework and financial status of the UN Haiti Cholera Response Trust Fund
6. Review of proposals and fund allocation decisions
7. AOB
8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment of the Fourth Advisory Committee meeting

### **Opening of the 4<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting on the UN Haiti Cholera Response MPTF**

Ms. Sheeran, Special Envoy for Haiti and Ms. Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, Director, Sustainable Development Unit, EOSG opened the 4<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting of the UN Haiti Cholera Response MPTF. Ms. Sheeran welcomed the participants, Board Members and the Observers. She greeted the representatives of Japan and the UK, as well as the team in Haiti who connected in audio conference. Ms. Sheeran expressed her appreciation to the participants for the continuous support and she gave the floor to the representative of the Government of Haiti for some introductory remarks before proceeding with the Agenda.

### **Introductory Remarks from the Government of Haiti**

H.E. Mr. Patrick Saint Hilaire, Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations, opened the 4<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee meeting with his remarks by congratulating the collective efforts, which brought attention to important progress and achievements to alleviate the suffering of the Haitians. Albeit acknowledging the positive outcomes and renewing the national engagement in the fight against cholera, Mr. Saint Hilaire put accent on the challenges that are still causing concern such as the difficulties to mobilize adequate resources to consolidate long term results. The Permanent Representative has encouraged the partners to move onward to consolidate this remarkable success. He called on the UN to remain on track on its commitment to continue strengthening a climate of trust built during the collective effort to fight cholera in Haiti. He concluded his statement stressing on the actual needs of the affected populations still suffering from the lack of adequate WASH, which impedes the right to good health, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. His remarks were complemented by the reassurances from the Director of the Sustainable Development Unit in maintaining the ambitious approach driven by the 2030 Agenda in Haiti.

## **Update on the work of the Office of the Special Envoy**

The Special Envoy started by thanking the partners for all coming together maintaining high focus on the challenge to eradicate cholera in Haiti. Ms. Sheeran shared very optimistic data indicating zero laboratory confirmed cases of cholera and zero deaths for eight consecutive months, and congratulated the Government of Haiti for their leadership and dedication in reaching this significant milestone. She noted that the current situation is a stark departure from 2017, when the Special Envoy accepted the mandate from the Secretary-General, where the numbers of suspected cholera cases were growing at a fast pace. The Special Envoy noted that reaching this critical milestone of zero laboratory confirmed cases, which has been officially reported by the Government of Haiti and confirmed by the United Nations, was only possible through a remarkable and innovative strategic partnership between the government, the UN and key stakeholders. This partnership helped enact several innovative approaches that have led to this milestone.

- 1) The first was achieving unified buy-in on a detailed comprehensive three-year strategy to end the epidemic signed by the Prime Minister and myself with the backing of a full range of implementers, experts and stakeholders. Such a plan is often missing in tackling epidemics.
- 2) A second was the design and deployment of an innovative approach to tame an epidemic in a nation without adequate health care infrastructure. Led by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF since 2014, a group of cholera heroes designed and deployed a network of rapid response teams, covering all cholera affected geographies.
- 3) A third critical gap addressed was in testing and surveillance. Haiti's Ministry of Health, working with the Pan-American Health Organization/ World Health Organization and UNICEF, has created an effective surveillance and suspected-case-investigation network down to community level, and improved national laboratory capacity and specimen transport capacity so that up to 98% of suspected cases, and a significant number of non-suspected cases are now tested.

The Special Envoy drew attention to the international engagement that have seen partners investing globally over \$700 million since the outbreak began in October 2010. She commended the \$10.6 million contributions channeled through the MPTF, which is expecting a significant raise with another \$10 million commitment from USAID. She expressed her gratitude about this support, and she anticipated the participation of USAID to the activities of the UN Haiti Cholera Response MPTF Advisory Committee once the contribution is received. The Special Envoy continued her update by providing an overview of the approximate US \$51 million to bridge the current funding gap of the two tracks of the UN approach to cholera in Haiti:

- Track 1a: \$20 million to maintain the cholera transmission at zero level through 2022, focusing on the last mile towards the final declaration of having cholera eradicated from Haiti
- Track 2: \$31 million as urgent need to continue the implementation of the successful methodology implemented that has been proven effective and transformational in order to alleviate the suffering of the communities hardest hit by cholera.

Finally, the Special Envoy recalled that we must never forget the Haitians that have lost family members or suffered from this disease. She noted that while nothing can erase the tragedy or replace lost family members, we must end this chapter with dignity and with certainty. In that regard, the SE underlined that the UN's efforts to support affected communities continues—from the symbolic successful pilot project in Mirebalais to the expansion through a new phase of track 2, currently under implementation by UNDP and UNOPS. The project is aimed at providing support to 134 communities most affected by cholera. The Special Envoy concluded her remarks with an anticipation of the allocations proposed for the remaining balance in the Trust Fund.

Before opening the floor for comments, Ms. Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, Co-Chair of the UN Haiti Cholera Response MPTF Advisory Committee, complemented the statement of the Special Envoy with three keywords: Responsibility, Focus and Coherence for concrete results on the long-term investment in Haiti. Positive feedback was received from the contributors who asked for the floor: Chile, the UK and the Republic of Korea. Few questions were asked for the strategies in place in relation to the new UN mission in Haiti (BINUH) and on the strategy to fill the existing funding gap. The Co-Chairs addressed these questions by reiterating the full engagement of the UN in Haiti. Few important remarks were spent on the BINUH's integrated approach in this new phase of transition. Furthermore, the Special Envoy acknowledged the importance of fresh inflow, aspiring also for new resources, which would be instrumental to strengthen this innovative approach with concrete support to the local communities empowered also to show the development of their leadership with tangible results.

### **Update on the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH)**

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough, Director of the Sustainable Development Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, continued the conversation about the new UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH). She shared some reflections on the uncertain political situation that is currently challenging the country, which could jeopardize the valuable progress done within the local communities that are now integral part of this transformational process. She called upon a unite team, both at local and at global

level, ensuring continuity in the catalytic work performed even in this kind of complex environment. She continued further by highlighting the lessons learned, which were born out of the severe circumstances caused by the cholera crisis, where ultimately dialogue and trust with the communities have been restored, building the foundations of such innovative and effective *community-centered* mechanism. On the same line, she explained that the strategy BINUH is implementing is inspired by the same design thinking. Hence, BINUH by developing this kind of integrated approach, aims to strengthen the justice sector through, for example, reinforcement of the National Police, support for elections and contributing to reduce violence with human rights at the center of the conversation. In essence, the message conveyed by the Co-Chair in her remarks is that, even in this transition time, the UN is not leaving, and it will continue to work and to invest in those aspects that will ensure stability to the country.

### **Presentation of the financial status of the cholera response MPTF**

Ms. Jennifer Topping, representing MPTF Office in her capacity as Administrative Agent, updated the Advisory Committee Members on the financial status of the UN Haiti Cholera Response MPTF. She presented the fund status by highlighting the \$10,497,697 million deposits received from 42 contributors, including the reallocation of the unencumbered MINUSTAH balances. She also announced the newest commitments received from the Philippines for an additional \$2,500 and by USAID, which, with a contribution agreement signed for \$10,000,000, is becoming the 43<sup>rd</sup> and largest contributor to the Trust Fund. She expressed her appreciation to all contributing partners, and she acknowledged the relevance of these additional resources representing a significant milestone to continue supporting the UN Special Envoy for Haiti in her mandate. She also made a note on the future collaboration with USAID within the Advisory Committee, given the sizeable contribution that is being received. Ms. Topping continued her financial update informing the Committee about the \$8,740,901 that had been already transferred to the Recipient Organizations for projects under the two tracks of the UN approach to cholera in Haiti, and \$2,878,804 of expenditures reported. She continued by informing the Committee of \$1,823,307 currently available for programming. MPTF Office will keep the Office of the Special Envoy informed as soon as the new deposits are received. Finally, she praised the continuous collaboration between MPTF Office and the Office of the Special Envoy; the two offices will work together in reviewing the TOR of the Fund, with the aim to provide with the revised version by the end of this year.

## **Presentation and review of the projects' submissions received by Mr. Ramsey C. Ben-Achour, Representative of the Special Envoy**

Before presenting the submissions to the Board, Mr. Ramsey C. Ben-Achour, working for the Office of the Special Envoy and based in Port-au-Prince, offered a detailed update on the two tracks. He explained that for track 1a concrete results were achieved through a multi-pronged approach, including through rapid response, water treatment, vaccination and training to families and households in terms of preventions. He highlighted the importance of the MPTF and other investments enablers of a swift forward directions in line with the Government National Plan to maintain the three years zero-cases through 2022. He then proceeded to present the three requests submitted for consideration to the Advisory Committee.

- **Project CLH2 (UNDP) under Track 2:** "[Community Assistance to Mirebalais](#)"  
**Request: No Cost Extension through 31 Mar 2020**
- **Project CLH6 (UNDP/UNOPS) under 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](#)"  
**Request: Release of the 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche for \$1,350,000**
- **Project CLH5 under Global Support Window:** "[CLH5 Operational and Technical Support to the OSE for a UN response to cholera in Haiti](#)"  
**Request: Cost Extension for \$117,122 through 31 Dec 2020**

The submissions presented by Mr. Ramsey C. Ben-Achour, Representative of the Special Envoy were positively received by the members of the Advisory Committee and approved by consensus.

*(Chile expressed their full support on the three requests before being excused from the meeting due to another commitment. Japan and the UK gave consent through remote connection)*

### **AOB and Closing remarks**

The two Co-Chairs expressed their appreciation on the full support demonstrated by all partners and without any other business to report, the floor was opened to H.E. Mr. Patrick Saint Hilaire, Chargé d'Affaires, representing the Government of Haiti for the closing remarks that can be summarized in few points of actions:

- Work on the tracks of the UN approach
- Consolidate the progress

- Transformative effects in the affected communities
- Additional resources mobilized
- Continue to keep the team active in the country
- Continue with the leadership provided by the Special Envoy

Further to the remarks addressed by the Representative from Haiti, the Special Envoy reinforced the UN commitment as a global responsibility, and she affirmed that *"It's not the moment to divert or to lose hope"*. Both Co-Chairs concluded by stating that the fight against cholera in Haiti remains a priority for the UN.

The meeting was adjourned at 05:00pm.