

**Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Advisory Committee
of the UN Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund
Thursday, 17 December 2020, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 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
France: Ms. Sophie Lecoutre, Humanitarian Counsellor
Japan: Mr. Yosuke Kita, Counsellor
**The Republic
of Korea:** Mr. Byung-seok Yoo, Counsellor
Norway: Mr. Teale Harold, Programme Advisor
United Kingdom: Was not able to participate
United States: Ms. Barbara Feinstein, Deputy Assistant Administrator
for Latin American and the Caribbean, USAID

Board Member Observers – Permanent Mission of Haiti to the UN

H.E. Mr. Antonio Rodrigue, Ambassador, Permanent Representative
Mr. Guy Metayer, Deputy Permanent Representative
Mr. Willy Louis, Minister Counsellor

UN System

Mr. Bruno Lemarquis, DSRS/HC/RC, UN Country Team
Mr. Anthony Marro, Chief, Emergency and Cholera, UNICEF Haiti

Ex-Officio Members

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

Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti

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

Agenda (revised)

1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks
2. Update by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Haiti
3. Introductory Remarks by the Government of Haiti
4. Presentation of the Funding Framework and Financial Status of the UN Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund
5. Presentation of Project Extensions
6. Concluding Remarks by the Government of Haiti
7. Q & A
8. AOB
9. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Opening of the 6th Advisory Committee Meeting on the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Mr. Ramsey Ben-Achour, Representative of the Special Envoy for Haiti, opened the 6th Advisory Committee Meeting of the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), which was held virtually, by welcoming the Committee Members and the other distinguished participants and thanking them for their continued support of the Trust Fund

Mr. Ben-Achour informed that he was temporarily chairing the meeting until Ms. Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, Director, Sustainable Development Unit, Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), and co-Chair of the Advisory Committee, arrived and that she was expected shortly. He announced a slight change in the presentation order of the Agenda, i.e., that contrary to usual practice, the Special Envoy would update the Committee before the Introductory Remarks by the Representative of the Government of Haiti.

Mr. Ramsey Ben-Achour invited the Special Envoy to address the Committee.

2. Update by the Special Envoy

Ms. Josette Sheeran, Special Envoy for Haiti (SE), thanked Mr. Ramsey Ben-Achour, and proceeded with her remarks, informing members that her mandate would come to a close on 31 December 2020.

Ms. Sheeran started by recounting the Secretary-General's (SG) deep commitment and determination to end cholera in Haiti, when he appointed her to the special role to lead the efforts on his behalf and that of the Deputy Secretary-General (DSG), Ms. Amina Mohammed.

She informed that the SG charged her with rallying the entire United Nations (UN) system behind Haiti, ending the cholera related deaths and stopping the spread of the disease, with the ultimate goal of eliminating cholera in Haiti altogether.

At the height of the epidemic, Ms. Sheeran recalled, there were over 18,000 new cases a day. She took over at the time the disease was still spreading and the suffering and deaths were ongoing. She worked quickly with the Government of Haiti to develop a Joint Action Plan to eradicate cholera. In particular, she explained that developing one Plan of Action, in collaboration with both the Ministry of Public Health and Population, and the National Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation (DINEPA) in Haiti, was important to ensure that all parties were united and measuring against the same goals.

Getting unified support for the plan, including from the Haitian Cabinet, the key UN agencies and Member States was key, as it illustrated cohesion and would allow for effective fund raising.

Ms. Sheeran continued that while victory over cholera cannot be declared at the moment, she was pleased to note that it had now been over two years without one confirmed laboratory case of cholera. She noted that this was the real testimony of the front-line health workers in Haiti, particularly the emergency response teams and others who ensured that every inch of Haiti was covered by the unified Action Plan to stop the disease in its tracks.

She stated that the unified Plan was a model for the world, an innovation and deeply relevant to the current COVID challenge because of the lack of hospitals and health care systems in many countries of the world. Haiti proved that with determination, education and action at the citizen and community levels, support of the world, what appeared to be an impossible goal could be accomplished. She continued that each of the Member States, agencies, funds and programmes had been a vital part of this achievement. As an example, she recalled that Republic of Korea made the first gift/contribution to the Trust Fund (TF) and has again contributed to the Fund in response to the recent appeal of the SG to increase the Fund. She thanked each of the representatives/Committee Members and their countries for their support, without which the current progress could not have been made.

She also noted that compared to the more than 705 million that the international community has invested in Haiti to fight cholera, only a small portion had come through the Multi Partner Trust Fund. The Fund, however, had been vital to address strategic and critical gaps that could not be funded through traditional means.

Ms. Sheeran then expressed her gratitude to the Representative of the US for the US's participation in the Fund. She stated that the Fund was a strategic fund, not the total answer to eradicate the disease in Haiti but that the Fund needed to continue to play its strategic role to ensure that any gaps, time or function, would be filled in the unified Action Plan.

The SE noted that the ten-year anniversary since the start of the cholera epidemic had recently passed, which served as a stark reminder of the impact that cholera has had on the people of Haiti. She recalled that at the onset of her mandate, she sought to launch a new era of openness on the part of the UN to engage with victims of cholera, and in doing so travelled to Haiti with the Deputy Secretary-General to meet with victims directly. Since that time, direct engagement with victims of cholera has been prioritized, with the UN launching and expanding a victim-led community consultative process to allow for the provision of material support of the hardest hit communities. Most recently, she noted with appreciation the participation by the Resident Coordinator (RC), Mr. Bruno Lemarquis, to a commemoration event on the 10 year anniversary of cholera with victims of cholera. Working directly with victims of cholera, recognizing the suffering that has happened, and ensuring support to the hardest hit communities is a key requirement to ending this chapter with dignity.

Ms. Sheeran stated that it had been an honour to work with the people of Haiti and that Haiti had a special place in her heart since her first visit there a few decades ago when she was at the US Department of State at the time.

She thanked everyone again for having supported the UN's work on Haiti's epidemiological and emergency response capacities, which had been designed to respond not only to cholera, but to all infectious disease outbreaks. In this regard, their work facilitated Haiti's fight against COVID-19.

She expressed that she was proud of and grateful for the Committee's support. She further thanked the Executive Coordinator of the UNDP Trust Fund, Ms. Jennifer Topping for maintaining transparency and management of the funds. She urged everyone to stay involved and to continue to contribute to the funds when they were able to do so to ensure that there is no resurgence of cholera.

She lastly expressed her deep gratitude to the President of Haiti, its Parliament and entire Cabinet, the people of Haiti and all the Civil Society organizations that have all unified to defeat the disease. She closed by stating that it had been an honor to work with everyone during the three-and-half years of her tenure/leadership.

The SE informed the Advisory Committee that moving forward, to ensure continued prioritization of Haiti's sustainable development, inclusive of cholera eradication and support to hardest hit communities, global leadership of the UN's efforts will remain with the Secretary-General, with the Deputy Secretary-General and Chair of the UNSDG, Amina J. Mohammed, providing strategic direction to guide implementation. In Haiti, key members of the UN Country Team, including UNICEF, UNDP, UNOPS and WHO/PAHO will continue to implement direct programming at the operational level, and will be led by the Resident Coordinator, Bruno Lemarquis. She further noted that the Office of the Special Envoy which she noted was ably led by her Representative, Mr. Ramsey Ben-Achour, would continue to provide support to the entire UN system to ensure the continued seamless effort of the work remaining to be done on cholera.

Ms. Sheeran thanked Mr. Ben-Achour for the floor and stated that she looked forward to their continuing partnership and involvement on many fronts including this one.

Mr. Ramsey Ben-Achour thanked Ms. Sheeran and noted that her mandate was ending at the end of the year, on 31 December 2020. He noted that it had been a privilege to see how she was able to pull everyone together to achieve the progress to date, and that while it would be sad to see her go, he was confident that success would be achieved under the leadership of the SG, the DSG and Mr. Bruno Lemarquis, the Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, in Haiti.

3. Introductory Remarks by the Government of Haiti

Mr. Ben-Achour invited the Representative of Haiti (H.E. Mr. Antonio Rodrigue, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations, or the Deputy Permanent Representative, Mr. Guy Metayer) to make their opening remarks. The Ambassador had not yet joined the meeting, so Mr. Metayer took the floor.

Mr. Guy Metayer started by thanking the Special Envoy for all the tremendous work she had done on behalf of Haiti, particularly her success of reducing transmission in the fight against cholera. He

acknowledged that progress had been made in the fight against cholera but noted that the long-term fight against cholera necessarily involved the long-term sustainable development strategy of Haiti. He stated that the eradication of cholera would involve working in close collaboration with the Government of Haiti, also applicable to all international partners, taking into account the priorities set by the Government. He closed by extending his congratulations to the Special Envoy on the work accomplished so far, as they moved towards the goal of eradicating cholera.

Mr. Ben-Achour thanked Mr. Metayer for his intervention and noted that everyone at the meeting would agree that working closely with the Government was absolutely imperative and that it had been the key to the success achieved so far. He added that the success to date was as a result of the efforts of the Haitian people and that the UN had been proud to have had that close collaboration, starting at the local level, up to the ministerial level and all the way to the level of the President and Prime Minister. Mr. Ben-Achour further noted that the unified Plan referenced by the Special Envoy was a Government plan; it had been created in partnership with the UN and so all the work to date had been led by the Government of Haiti with the support of the UN. He concluded by stating that it was very important for all involved to continue to work in partnership with the Government and people of Haiti.

Mr. Ben-Achour then gave the floor to Mr. Willy Louis, Minister Counsellor, the Permanent Mission of Haiti to the UN, who requested to speak.

Mr. Louis said that he wanted to express his thanks and appreciation for the Special Envoy's dedication and personal attachment and for her initiative to eradicate cholera and contribution to the efforts on sustainable development.

Mr. Ben-Achour thanked Mr. Louis for his expression of appreciation and gave the floor to the Special Envoy who requested to reply to Mr. Louis's heartfelt appreciation.

The SE thanked Mr. Louis for being a great partner, with whom she worked closely in this journey. Ms. Sheeran said she knew of the broader frustration in getting an aligned, transparent, funded plan for the future of Haiti. She underscored that the two years of no confirmed cases of cholera so far was part of the World Health Organization (WHO) eradication confirmation requirement of three years. The WHO required three consecutive years of no confirmed cases to declare cholera eradicated, so Haiti was well on its way to that goal.

She reminded that it was absolutely vital to keep the focus on cholera eradication, even as the world dealt with COVID-19 to ensure that there was reoccurrence of cholera, now that Haiti was in the homestretch of eradication.

Ms. Sheeran thanked Mr. Ben-Achour for the floor.

Mr. Ben-Achour thanked Ms. Sheeran and welcomed Ms. Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, co-Chair of the Advisory Committee, who had joined the meeting from a meeting with the DSG. He then passed the co-Chairing of the meeting to Ms. Gyles-McDonnough.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough thanked the Special Envoy and Mr. Ben-Achour again for getting the meeting started. She stated that it had been a great privilege to work alongside Ms. Sheeran for the past 3-1/2 years, and to see the dedication and focus on her mandate which is an important priority of the SG and DSG.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough opened the floor to the Committee Members who wished to make comments or statements on the announcement that the Special Envoy was completing her mandate at the end of the year.

Ms. Barbara Feinstein of the USA took the floor.

Ms. Barbara Feinstein, Deputy Assistant to the Administrator, USAID, started by expressing her thanks for being part of the important meeting and congratulating the Special Envoy, Ms. Sheeran, for her extraordinary leadership.

Ms. Feinstein went on to commend the remarks of Mr. Metayer, noting that host country ownership, setting direction and providing guidance were absolutely critically important in every development endeavor. She stated that those comments were very well received and congratulated all involved on the success achieved to date. She concluded her remarks by stating and underscoring that the US remained fully committed to the endeavor and looked forward to continuing to working together.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough thanked Ms. Feinstein for her remarks and gave the floor to Mr. Pierre-David Jean, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations.

Mr. Pierre-David Jean echoed the comments made to that point and thanked the Special Envoy for her energy, dedication, and relentlessness in achieving a solution that worked for Haiti. He congratulated the SE, stating that they were proud of the work and all that she had done and her leadership.

Mr. Jean also echoed the comments by Mr. Metayer regarding the importance of national ownership and that this programme was one of the good examples of collaboration between the Haitian Government, the UN and the international community.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough thanked Mr. Jean and asked if there was anyone else who wanted to make comments at that time. As no one else had comments at the time, Ms. Gyles-McDonnough thanked everyone who had made comments/for their reactions so far.

4. Presentation of the Funding Framework and Financial Status of the UN Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough then invited Ms. Jennifer Topping, Executive Coordinator of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO), in her capacity as Administrative Agent of the UN Haiti Cholera Response MPTF, to give a few highlights and update on the funding situation of the UN Haiti Cholera Response MPTF.

Ms. Topping started by stating that, as trustee of the UN Haiti Cholera Response MPTF, she would like to join everyone in expressing her deep appreciation for the dedicated and passionate leadership of Special Envoy for Haiti, Ms. Sheeran, as she completed her mandate. She also commended the leadership of the Government of Haiti and all the other partners. She added that it had been a privilege to support Ms. Sheeran in this effort.

Referencing the Funding Framework, document circulated to the Members of the Advisory Committee prior to the meeting, she noted that Table 1 indicated that the Fund had received

US\$20.5 million to date which came from 45 different contributors, including contributions received through the reallocation of the unencumbered MINUSTAH (United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti, 2004-2017) balance. Further, she highlighted that, since the last Advisory Committee meeting in May, the Fund had received three additional contributions from the Governments of Montenegro, Nepal and Romania. These contributions were reflected in Table 2 (Commitments) of the Funding Framework. She also expressed her appreciation for the most recent announcement from the Government of the Republic of Korea, which had decided to contribute with an additional US\$200,000 to the Trust Fund. She noted that the contribution agreement is being finalized, and the commitment will be reflected upon completion of the agreement.

Ms. Topping informed that, as of 14 December, out of the total of the US\$20.5 million received US\$14.2 million had been transferred out under the two Tracks of the New Approach to Cholera in Haiti, leaving a balance of US\$6.4 million with the Administrative Agents, which did not include the US\$200,000 from the Government of Korea yet to be recorded .

Ms. Topping concluded offering her availability to respond to any on the presentation of the financial situation.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough thanked Ms. Topping for her presentation of the key figures that highlighted the financial health of the Trust Fund.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough then stated that she would like to acknowledge and welcome Ambassador Rodrigue, who had arrived at this time, before she opened the floor for any questions. She went on to add that she welcomed the three new contributions received from Montenegro, Nepal and Romania, and the additional contribution from the Republic of Korea which was in progress.

She then proceeded to open the floor for any questions or clarifications on the financial situation of the Fund.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough noted that there were no questions or clarifications on the financial status of the Fund, and then invited Ambassador Rodrigue to make his remarks/address the Committee.

H.E. Mr. Antonio Rodrigue, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations, thanked Ms. Gyles-McDonnough for the floor and proceeded to address the Committee.

Ambassador Rodrigue continued by stating that it had been a great honour and privilege to be invited to the 6th Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the UN Haiti Cholera Response MPTF, noting that it was his first meeting, as he had joined the Permanent Mission after the 5th meeting in May.

He stated that his presence at the meeting demonstrated the interest of the Government of Haiti in the work of the Committee on behalf of the people of Haiti, particularly those who had been affected by the outbreak of cholera. He noted that there had not been a single confirmed case of cholera for nearly two years, so this marked an opportunity to thank Ms. Sheeran on behalf of the Government and people of Haiti for her work, her decisive role, and demonstrated leadership in bringing the problem to the attention of the international community. He noted that Ms. Sheeran had taken the disease of cholera in Haiti to heart and

mentioned that Haiti was losing a very good friend in the fight to eliminate cholera and help those who were affected. He went on to thank the Members of the Advisory Committee who volunteered their time and effort to call the attention of the international community to the plight of the victims of the cholera and expressed gratitude to the countries that have contributed to the MPTF. He noted that it was necessary to continue cholera surveillance until cholera was declared eradicated, and to support the communities directly affected by the disease by investing more in sanitation, clean water and primary care.

Ambassador Rodrigue noted that it had been 10 years since the introduction of cholera to Haiti, so the UN needed to fully deliver on its commitment to the Haitian people affected by the disease. He stated that the Organization's credibility had been undermined because it had not implemented its legal and moral obligation and provided remedies to the victims.

In closing, the Ambassador expressed the hope that with the continued support from the international community, cholera would be eradicated.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough thanked the Ambassador for his statement and noted that reaching two of the three years with no confirmed cholera cases, required for official declaration of eradication by WHO, was certainly an achievement but focus would continue to ensure that the three-year eradication goal was reached.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough followed up on the comments by the Ambassador that the important work around cholera, the continuation of the surveillance, strengthening of the systems, early warning, and prevention, are important not just for cholera but for the systemic resilience in Haiti, and confirmed the continued leadership and focus of the SG and DSG. The Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Bruno Lemarquis, and the Country team on the ground and the Special Envoy's team will continue to accompany Haiti.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough said that the UN is committed to implementing sustainable development wholly across Haiti and that the work would continue with the Government of Haiti and Haitian people, through the Decade of Action. She concluded by thanking the Ambassador for acknowledging the work already completed and noting that there was unfinished work ahead, reassuring of the UN's full commitment to the journey for the longer-term development and resilience.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough then invited the representative of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Byung-seok Yoo, to speak.

Mr. Yoo thanked the co-Chair and joined the previous speakers in expressing his sincere gratitude on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea to Ms. Sheeran for her dedication and tireless efforts as Special Envoy for Haiti and for the achievements to date. The Republic of Korea was very pleased to have been, and to continue to be, part of the valuable and meaningful collective effort. To that end, he noted that as the Executive Coordinator of the MPTF informed, the Republic of Korea had decided to contribute an additional US\$200,000 to the Trust Fund and hoped that this amount would aid the UN to make the final push toward a successful conclusion of its response to cholera in Haiti. He expressed his thanks again and yielded the floor.

The co-Chair, Ms. Gyles-McDonnough thanked Mr. Yoo and gave the floor to the Representative of Japan, Mr. Yosuke Kita.

Mr. Kita thanked the co-Chair for the floor and, on behalf of the Government of Japan, thanked Ms. Sheeran and all those involved for their tremendous efforts to date in the fight against cholera in Haiti. He noted that Japan had had good relations with Haiti for about 40 years and, thus, Japan made a voluntary contribution to cholera control in 2017. He went on to express his appreciation for the progress to date and stated that Japan was also facing a very tight fiscal situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, he informed that the following two points were important in order for Japan to continue to be involved in the cholera response in Haiti: 1) the cholera response needed to lead to strengthening not only cholera control but also COVID-19 and other diseases as part of the health systems strengthening, as many areas vulnerable to cholera would also be vulnerable to COVID-19; 2) to implement a communications programme to promote public awareness of Japan's support.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough thanked Japan, for their continued commitment and also for highlighting the relationship and the importance of the systemic approach which is where the UN thought a really strong investment needed to be made for cholera and for COVID-19 and all the other reasons cited and comments made.

The co-Chair invited the Representative of Chile, Ms. Leyla Vasquez Islame, to speak.

Ms. Vasquez echoed all the remarks and comments made already by the previous speakers and, on behalf of Chile, extended her gratitude to the Special Envoy for the hard work, perspective and vision she gave to the programme in Haiti. Ms. Vasquez concurred that without empowering local communities to achieve national ownership, almost achieving the standards of WHO for the eradication of cholera would not be possible.

Ms. Vasquez added that despite the economic challenges that everyone had faced this year, it was wonderful to hear that some new donations were made to funding projects. She stated that it was also notable to see that those directly working and involved in the country were working in collaboration and cooperation with the UN country team and other agencies of the UN. Ms. Vasquez highlighted that it would be important to highlight the experience in Haiti, as it could be replicated in other parts of the world in other missions with regard to other viruses and epidemics, for example, currently in Sudan.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough thanked the Representative of Chile and announced that she wanted to turn to the next item on the Agenda.

In doing so, she noted that with the strong messages from all the Committee Members and the Special Envoy, that the UN needed to maintain focus and step up efforts under the leadership of the Regional Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator in Haiti, Mr. Bruno Lemarquis. She continued by noting that while COVID-19 did not cause the vulnerabilities, it certainly exacerbated them. This situation has made clearer the objective the UN had when the new SG took office, the need for really strong, comprehensive and stepped-up response for sustainable development in Haiti. The UN saw the interlinkages across all of its investments and wanted to make sure that it drove them in a common direction towards achieving the goals and leaving no one behind, including the victims of cholera. Ms. Gyles-McDonnough

stated that these would remain the UN's guiding principles as well as the clear direction given by the Committee and the Government of Haiti. She continued that it was against this backdrop and the conversation thus far that she would turn to the next item on the Agenda and seek the Committee's consideration of two project extension requests, as was circulated via email. She noted that the requests for extension were to ensure that the effort continued despite the challenges being confronted. She then invited Mr. Ben-Achour to present the requests for extension.

5. Presentation of Project Extensions

Mr. Ben-Achour thanked Ms. Gyles-McDonnough and everyone for their comments. He said that it was helpful to hear the words of support as they navigated an uncharted process.

Mr. Ben-Achour started with the request for a cost extension of project CLH6 from UNDP-UNOPS. The proposed cost extension would extend the end date of the project to 28 February 2022 and increase the total budget by \$356,136.62 for a total budget of \$5,936,070. He noted that UNDP and UNOPS were the main implementing partners on Track 2 of the Secretary-General's New Approach to Cholera which provided support to the victims and communities that have been hardest hit by cholera. Mr. Ben-Achour recalled that the Ambassador noted that this was a priority of the SG and that it was taken very seriously, so they were trying to make as much progress on as possible.

He reminded that UNDP-UNOPS had been working in remote communities throughout Haiti that had been hit hardest by cholera and that the goal of the project was to empower those communities to identify their own priorities, support them to convert their priorities into actual projects and then work with the communities to implement these projects. He continued that the work was ongoing, and that the 20 communities in the north of the country were making active progress in designing their projects. Mr. Ben-Achour noted that working with the communities on their projects was a long and often personal process and was predicated upon victims getting together to talk about their shared experiences, the impact cholera had had on their lives, their communities, and working together to identify their priorities. However, as everyone could attest, COVID-19 had disrupted so many plans and it had been no different in Haiti with this project. That meant that timelines for finalizing the community-led consultations had to be adjusted, which in turn impacted the timeline for project elaboration and construction. As a result, the project extension request was based on the delay in timelines and associated costs. Mr. Ben-Achour informed that the plan had been reviewed by the Office of the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) in Haiti, by the MPTF Secretariat, by the Special Envoy and her team, and by the office of the DSG and that they had all affirmed that the cost extension was both appropriate and necessary.

Mr. Ben-Achour went on to present the second cost extension request which was for project CLH5 from the Office of the Special Envoy (OSE). The proposed cost extension would extend the end date of the project to 31 March 2022 and increase the budget by \$389,307 for a new total of \$843,730. He recalled that the Special Envoy and the Co-chair, Ms. Gyles-

McDonnough, had both noted in the remarks that global leadership of the UN efforts would remain with the SG and the DSG, as chair of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which provided strategic direction to guide implementation and in Haiti, the work would be led by the RC/HC, Mr. Bruno Lemarquis, and during the transition the OSE would continue to provide technical guidance and active operational support for the SG's New Approach to Cholera. The OSE would ensure that priority attention remained consistent and that all knowledge was systematically transferred throughout the transition and institutionalized to benefit the broader development efforts in Haiti. As always, though, the Special Envoy's goal was to reserve funding provided through the MPTF to support the beneficiaries on the ground. Therefore, to fund the vast majority of the work, it was proposed that the interest accrued on the contributions held in the MPTF be utilized rather than utilizing the direct contributions to the fund themselves. Mr. Ben-Achour stated that as with the previous project request, that this request had been reviewed by the Office of the RC/HC, by the MPTF Secretariat, by the Special Envoy and by the office of the DSG and they also all affirmed that the cost extension was both appropriate and necessary. Mr. Ben-Achour then announced that he would be happy to take questions on the two extensions.

The co-Chair thanked Mr. Ben-Achour and opened the floor for questions and clarifications. She noted that the intent was to continue the work on the eradication of cholera in Haiti and facilitate the work on Track 2 and make sure the three-year mark of eradication was reached.

At this time, Ms. Sheeran asked to make a brief comment.

Ms. Sheeran thanked Ambassador Rodrigue for his gracious comments. She added that she attempted to keep costs low, had raised additional funds to cover items such as travel, and even her position of Special Envoy was at a symbolic \$1 a year. Unfortunately, she was not able to travel to Haiti in 2020, despite desire to do so. She urged support for the project extensions as outlined so that the projects could continue moving as soon as possible.

The co-Chair thanked the SE and as there were no comments or questions on the project extensions, the co-Chair informed that she would interpret that as approval by acclamation for the cost extension requests of projects CLH5 CLH6 and would proceed with the allocation decision. Project CLH5 will be extended to 31 March 2022 and budget will be increased by \$389,307 for a new total of \$843,730. Project CLH6 will be extended to 28 February 2022 and increase the total budget by \$356,136.62 for a total budget of \$5,936,070. She then asked for a Committee Member to make a motion to support the project extension to allow the Committee to move forward.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough gave Mr. Lemarquis the floor.

The Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Bruno Lemarquis thanked Ms. Gyles-McDonnough, Ambassador Rodrigue and all the Committee Members and participants. He extended his deepest thanks to the Special Envoy from the UN in Haiti. He continued with thanks on behalf the colleagues on ine at the meeting from the agencies who were most involved in the frontline fight like UNICEF, WHO/PAHO, UNDP and UNOPS, who have been involved in alleviating the plight of some of the most affected communities. He noted that that much work remained to be done, not only to reach the WHO eradication milestone of three years in 2022 but to continue helping some of the most affected

communities. He stated that they would continue with the Haitian partners, first and foremost the Government, acknowledging Mr. Metayer's comments on working closely with the Government.

He stated that the long-term solution was to be found in the implementation of the 2030 SDG Agenda and by supporting Haiti's development trajectory, and that the UN should focus on a few priorities jointly defined with the Government of Haiti; priorities that touched on some systemic and structural issues that have hampered Haiti's development trajectory.

Mr. Lemarquis confirmed that all the investments that had been made to fight cholera had been great use in the fight against COVID-19, including systems' capacities, surveillance, and laboratory capacities. The investments made in these systems accounted in part for the milder impact of COVID-19 in Haiti. In concluding, he thanked the Member States for their continued support in Haiti and New York.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough thanked Mr. Lemarquis, for his leadership, and thanked the agencies for contributing to the achievements under the leadership of the Government of Haiti.

She went on to state that the business of the Committee was and passed the floor to Ambassador Rodrigue for his closing remarks.

6. Concluding remarks by the Government of Haiti

Ambassador Rodrigue expressed his sincere thanks to everyone for their dedication, effort and time on behalf of the Haitian people. He lauded the work of advocacy, especially for those affected by cholera. He reiterated that this meeting was his first meeting of the MPTF and that he thought the work was very important, especially during this time of COVID-19. He expressed his appreciation for the countries that contributed in the Advisory Committee meeting and noted this was encouraging during this difficult time of COVID-19. He stated that this was great proof of solidarity for which the Haitian people and Government were very grateful and appreciative.

He also expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Special Envoy, as she completed her mandate, for her solidarity, empathy and support for the Haitian people.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough thanked the Ambassador for his closing remarks and, on behalf of the SG and DSG, thanked the Member States represented in the Committee for their solidarity and partnership. She re-emphasized the SG's call, that only through solidarity and concrete partnership could they travel the path to sustainable development in Haiti and elsewhere. She noted that the SG has been steadfast in his leadership and that Mr. Lemarquis could attest to the intensified discussions being carried out both in New York and in the field.

7 & 8. AOB and Closing remarks

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough invited the Special Envoy to make her closing remarks and close the meeting for the last time as co-Chairperson.

The Special Envoy thanked Ms. Gyles-McDonnough, Mr. Ben-Achour, and Ambassador Rodrigue, and also acknowledged the important work that the members are doing.

She continued by offering her thanks to the President, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, the Minister of Health, Dr. Pape, Mr. Metayer and Mr. Louis. She noted that this had not been an easy issue to solve and yet everyone came together to achieve the success to date. In particular, she recognized the

Ambassador for always stepping forward to facilitate responsible action – a tribute to the courage and resilience of the people of Haiti.

The SE thanked the Representative of the USA for their donation which doubled the size of the Fund. The membership of the USA is a very important signal to the world that this is an important issue.

She continued, expressing thanks to Canada, Japan, Korea and Chile, recognizing their steadfast leadership in the global system, by supporting Haiti despite its geographic distance. Together, they made the Trust Fund the most diverse in UN history.

She thanked Ms. Topping, the Executive Director of the MPTF, UNICEF, UNDP, Mr. Lemarquis, and all involved, stating her appreciation that all could share in this great work with the SG and the DSG.

Ms. Gyles-McDonnough thanked Ms. Sheeran, the Committee Members and participants for their solidarity with the process and looks forward to the continued partnership in 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.