

Minutes

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**Participants** (*Members of the Steering Committee in bold*):

**WHO**

<b>Naoko Yamamoto</b>	<b>Assistant-Director General, UHC and Health Systems</b>
<b>Jim Campbell</b>	<b>Director, Health Workforce Department, UHC and Health</b>
Paul Marsden	Technical Officer, Health Workforce

**ILO**

<b>Alette Van Leur</b>	<b>Director, Sectoral Policies Department</b>
Oliver Liang	Head, Private and Public Services Unit, Sectoral Policies Department
Christiane Wiskow	Health Sector Specialist, Sectoral Policies Department
Delphine Santini	Technical Officer, Sectoral Policies Department
Raky Kane	Senior UN Partnerships Officer, Partnerships and Field Support Department

**OECD**

<b>Stefano Scarpetta</b>	<b>Director, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD</b>
Nick Tomlinson	Health Division
Akiko Maeda	Health Economist, Health Division (via phone)

**UN MPTF Office in New York** (via phone)

Jennifer Topping	Executive Coordinator, MPTF Office
Mari Matsumoto	Portfolio Manager, MPTF Office

**NORAD**

Marianne Monclair	Senior Advisor, NORAD
Ingvar Evjen Olsen	Policy Director, NORAD (via phone)
Priya Lerberg	NORAD (via phone)

The meeting was chaired by Jim Campbell.

**Item 1: Working for Health Multi-Partner Trust Fund Governance**

***Multi-partner Trust Fund, Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee***

Legal clearance was given by the three organizations on the final version of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which were ready to be signed.

As regards the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the MPTF Steering Committee (SC), which needed to be finalized, the UN MPTF Office suggested alignment with existing generic MPTF TOR clauses. The UN MPTF Office noted that the TORs for the MPTF already used a standard approach in many areas, which should be regarded as positive. Further, since most activities would occur at country level, country coordination structures could benefit from the alignment between funds and existing UN country coordination structures, as already flagged in the document. NORAD noted that more time would be needed for them to consult in detail on the documents, but expressed

support for the alignment exercise and satisfaction with the acknowledgment and representation of donors on the MPTF SC. It was agreed that the TOR alignment exercise would be carried out online by the Secretariat and UN MPTF Office, and shared with SC and donors for virtual sign-off.

### ***Finalization of the Results Matrix***

WHO stressed how important the results matrix was and that it should be considered as work in progress for the moment. The UN MPTF Office added that the 'Results Matrix' would be finalized, taking into account both the programmatic content and the 'Rules of Procedures' for operationalizing the funds. NORAD indicated that the results matrix was very important for their internal approval of the agreement.

In terms of timeline, it was proposed to finalize the results matrix by end of June, or earlier. In that respect, the ILO noted that further thoughts would have to be given to finalize it and that, due to the forthcoming International Labour Conference, no earlier deadline than end of June could be met.

### ***Criteria to facilitate decision-making***

Besides the results matrix, there was a consensus to consider that the SC requires further guidance to make informed decisions on the submissions put forward for consideration. The UN MPTF Office suggested that additional 'criteria' be made available. They would be shaped through a process of alignment with the generic UNDG Guidance Note on Joint Programmes, to allow clarity and transparency in the process. The criteria should be revised from time to time for more flexibility. Similarly, it was agreed that the risk matrix included in the MPTF TORs could be reviewed every year by the SC, and adapted as necessary. It was agreed to prepare the criteria before end of June.

### **Decision Points:**

- 1. TORs of the MPTF and the MOU to be signed during the present meeting***
- 2. Alignment of both TORs of the SC to be carried out rapidly and electronically by the Secretariat and MPTF Office, and shared with the SC members for virtual sign-off***
- 3. Results Matrix to be finalized by the end of June latest, as an addendum to the MPTF Terms of Reference, and taking into consideration key guidance notes***
- 4. Inclusive 'Criteria' to be prepared for the consideration of the SC by end of June latest, to facilitate future decisions on submissions, and to be revisited as and when needed***

## **Item 2: Work Plan for 2018**

### ***Agenda and selected countries***

There was a consensus to consider that this was an ambitious agenda that needed to move forward, in terms of balancing prioritization on: 1) collaboration on global public goods; 2) regional economic area requests; and 3) country-specific requests. Nonetheless, the ILO recommended exercising caution since sufficient time would need to be allocated to developing the submissions and delivering top quality work. Furthermore, institutional capacity should be strengthened to sustain products and commitments made under W4H.

NORAD regretted to have received the Work Plan and Concept Note submission documents too late to look at them in details and requested more time to discuss internally. Regarding the selection of countries, they inquired on the criteria used and indicated their priority target countries would be low and middle income. They also requested more information on the balance between global, regional and country products, as well as on the specific role of the MPTF vis-à-vis each agency. Additionally, they inquired about the most appropriate level (regional economic communities vs. country level).

In response, WHO explained that certain upper-middle income countries played an important role in Working for Health. South Africa was the co-chair of the UN High-level Commission on Health

Employment and Economic Growth, and a sponsor of the World Health Assembly resolution, as well as the current chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Tapping into the potential of regional economic communities would ensure more consensus and buy-in, and be in line with the Commission's recommendations. In addition, that would trigger national ownership, resulting in increased national demand. As regards China's grant coming through the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund, demand and country selection was identified through the Belt-and-Road Initiative. For the other selected countries, mixed criteria were used. Following the Commission's recommendations, the decision was made to prioritize those countries furthest behind on universal health coverage. Governments had either written formal requests for support from the W4H programme, or sent electronic correspondence. The WHO further reinforced the immediate need for the W4H programme to demonstrate impact in terms of proposal selection, performance and completion.

### ***Planning and preparedness***

On programming and sequencing, the UN MPTF Office recommended that the SC and the technical secretariat team did forward-planning work to help build out a pipeline for future funding. This would require more frequent discussions among the SC group (via phone, emails, etc.) to keep pace. It was agreed that, while the SC could not commit resources beyond what was currently available, it would be advantageous to have an investment pipeline projection, in anticipation and preparedness for larger investments and programs in the near future.

In terms of revisiting and developing clear criteria, a national request was seen as a sound indicator of national ownership; national capacity could be other criteria, as well as the low-income status of countries. The Secretariat should strengthen concept notes to make sure that the SC could make informed decisions, based on clear criteria. The ILO suggested preparing intervention models to facilitate and speed up the process, where submission requests are received for comparable issues and interventions. It was also suggested to unpack 'criteria' on what the right type of intervention (policy, country support etc.) would be. OECD proposed to discuss strategically which countries would play an important role in the regions, and therefore, would be an asset to take on board. Targeting those countries and reaching out to them proactively was considered to be an important initial step.

NORAD expressed support for these proposals. The potential conflict between targeting countries that were lagging behind and the ones having demand was raised, and the importance of strategic thinking further stressed. The UN MPTF office also supported the idea of having a strategic balance between demand and need, especially as this would be important for new MPTF contributors.

### **Decision Points:**

- 5. General consensus was reached on the Work Plan elements and on the need to further detail and unpack clear Criteria to inform decisions and to allocate resources against available funding.***
- 6. In the meantime and within existing funding, work can continue on 1) Global Public Goods, and 2) Regional support; however further work on 3) Country requests, would be subject to meeting criteria***
- 7. The Work Plan is time sensitive and therefore an immediate priority for the Secretariat to revise and complete***
- 8. Efforts to be put into anticipated preparedness, by developing an investment pipeline, and intervention models***
- 9. For organizational purposes and in the interest of time, Secretariat to reach to members of the SC informally and regularly to keep everyone informed of the others' views***

### **Item 3: Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy for 2018**

Since the preparatory SC meeting on 23 March 2018, a detailed mapping of potential donors was prepared. Acknowledging it as good baseline, the UN MPTF Office recommended making it more forward-looking, by adding a calendar of events and activities highlighting the key opportunities for the next six months. The RM strategy is a living document and all SC members and the W4H team have an active role to play as advocates and enablers of funding.

WHO gave a quick update on recent conversations with potential donors. During the last G20, OECD and WHO had the opportunity to present at the Sherpa meeting, offering the opportunity for different partners to be informed. It was also strategic to mobilize the G20, as ‘workforce skills’ and ‘gender’ were set as top priorities for the G20 presidency by Argentina. Additionally, as the G20 is a country-driven process, it was particularly strategic in terms of positioning language around the health workforce, gender and W4H within the declaration. NORAD supported attempts to build links with potential donors, for example through their co-hosting of the Global Financing Facility replenishment event in Oslo, November 2018; and specified that their 3-year financial commitment to W4H could be extended into year four, to take into account the delay in launching the MPTF.

A suggestion was made concerning the communication of products and our pitch to potential donors, which should be prepared and made available as soon as possible. The idea of establishing a Resource Mobilization Team, proposed during the last SC meeting, was further supported by the SC members. Additionally, a decision was made to prepare and send out a joint letter from the organizations’ senior management teams for potential donors, and to maximize visibility from the launching of the MPTF.

**Decision Points:**

- 10. Calendar of the next 6-months’ key opportunities to be prepared and added to the RM Strategy*
- 11. Communication products and talking points on W4H to be made available as soon as possible, and joint letter from the organizations’ senior management teams to be prepared and sent out*
- 12. A Resource Mobilization Team to be established immediately*

**Item 4: Any other business and conclusions**

None

Meeting adjourned at 15:30, and MOUs formally signed.