

PRE-READ

AGENDA ITEM 1

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE RBM PARTNERSHIP BOARD

I. Background

According to the mandate given to it by the RBM Partnership Board, the Executive Committee of the Board meets to provide more regular decision making on behalf of the Board between its meetings. The Executive Committee is expected to meet at least quarterly, or twice between Boards, however the frequency can be adjusted as appropriate.

In line with its mandate, the Executive Committee met a total of six times between the 13th RBM Board in Addis-Ababa (28-29 November 2007) and the 14th Board in Geneva, Switzerland (15-16 May 2008). The dates of these meetings can be found below:

1. 20 December 2007
2. 13 February 2008
3. 19 March 2008
4. 26 March 2008
5. 8 April 2008
6. 16 April 2008

These meetings took place via teleconference, videoconference, and in person.

II. Summary of Achievements to Date

Main **content** of the meetings revolved around six issues:

1. **Malaria Implementation Support Team (MIST)**
 - a. The Executive Committee was sensitive to concerns from quarters of the Partnership regarding the potential duplication of effort that might ensue from the creation of the MIST, which will act as an implementation support arm for the Partnership to help countries scale up by 2010.
 - b. To address those concerns, the EC concentrated on reviewing and revising the MIST terms of reference, work plan and associated deliverables to ensure no duplication of activities would occur.
 - c. It was discussed that MIST would take over a number of the primary work streams of the Harmonization Working Group, including
 1. Funding support (e.g. Global Fund (GFATM) Round 8 and Revolving Continuation Channel Support)
 2. RBM Country and Regional Needs Assessment to Achieve 2010 Targets
 3. Identification and resolution of implementation challenges
 4. Acceleration of funding disbursement e.g. Round 7 appeals and grant signature acceleration
 5. Nigeria and DRC support for GFATM resources and rapid scale up.

2. Global Malaria Business Plan (GMBP)

a. The EC was primarily briefed on the contents and provided with updates of progress made in the preparation of the GMBP

b. The EC was also offered the opportunity to make their inputs into the plan as it now exists

3. Affordable Medicines Facility for malaria (AMFm) Task Force -

a. The Task Force report was reviewed and discussed in advance of the mid-February meeting of the Global Fund's Policy and Strategy Committee, which will make recommendations to the GF Board at its next meeting in late April regarding hosting arrangements for the AMFm.

4. 14th Board Agenda

a. During the reporting period, the EC reviewed and made inputs into the agenda prepared by the Secretariat.

5. RBM Partnership Governance

a. In light of current efforts to scale up support to help countries achieve 2010 targets, it was recommended that all mechanisms be reviewed with regard to their ability to resolve well-known implementation bottlenecks, for example monitoring and evaluation and procurement bottlenecks.

b. This review will provide the basis for any modifications or updating of the Partnership's Operating Framework and By-laws, the creation of new structures, or modifications to any mechanism's current terms of reference.

6. Resource Mobilization

a. The Sub-Committee for Resource Mobilization offered proposed recommendations to the Board regarding all resource mobilization activities to help the Board in organizing a sector wide approach that would also move beyond the annual planning cycle

b. Affirmed the need for resource mobilization to be systemized and that a strategy must be defined by the Board.

7. World Bank Evaluation

a. As a part of the funding provided by the World Bank to the RBM Partnership is the requirement for an external review; the review may likely examine what has transpired since the last evaluation occurred in 2002 and the subsequent change initiative (2006) that led to a revitalized Partnership.

Main **decisions and actions** taken by the EC on each of these matters included:

1. MIST

➤ Endorsed HWG /MIST work planning process and the monthly reporting schedule on MIST developments to the EC given the dynamic nature of implementation support and changing needs

2. GMBP

➤ Requested development of GMBP related decision points for the Board agenda.

3. AMFm

➤ Endorsed in principle the AMFm report, but noted that outstanding issues flagged during the 13th Board had not yet adequately been addressed or resolved

➤ Conditional green light to open talks with the Global Fund's Policy and Strategy Committee on AMFm

4. 14th Board Agenda

- It was decided to retain only those agenda items requiring decisions from the Board, and to reschedule purely informational sessions for a separate meeting prior to the Board.
 - It was also requested that the Executive Director's Report broaden its focus beyond management and implementation rates of the Secretariat or broader Partnership, to encompass country-level implementation by reviewing how factors for quick progress were promoted and how barriers to quick progress were resolved
- 5. Governance**
- Requested critical analysis of RBM Partnership mechanisms put in place by the Change Initiative and adopted by the 11th Board meeting with regard to their effectiveness in enabling the RBM Partnership to achieve its annual and 2010 targets
- 6. Resource Mobilization**
- a. Explored the need to balance what must be an open process with what also must be a structured and coordinated process
 - b. Requested the development of recommendations regarding a resource mobilization strategy that could be put before the Board
- 7. World Bank Evaluation**
- a. Initiated discussions with Performance Subcommittee of the RBM Partnership Board regarding an evaluation framework that may be useful or inform the work of the evaluation

EC functions as adopted by the December 2006 Partnership Board and as contained in the Partnership Handbook are limited to four major things: set Board agenda and decision points; guide and oversee work plan and budget for Partnership bodies; review progress against deliverables; make time-sensitive decisions on how RBM will respond to external events.

In practice, however, the EC enjoys delegation of authority far beyond this limited mandate. Given that it operates as a miniature Board generates significant work loads for EC members and creates difficulties in the timely delivery of expected outputs. As a consequence of this expanded mandate, the role and accountability of the full Board for the Partnership's actions is unclear.

III. Requested Board Action

- **Endorse** the report
- **Clarify** delegation of Board Authority
- **Budget Implication:** None

IV. Next Step(s) & Challenges Ahead

- Follow up on Board decision points and actions emerging from the 14th Board
- Limited time of EC members to undertake the considerable work delegated to it by the Board

V. Contacts for clarification of this document or discussion of these issues or proposals

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