

Independent Expert Review Group (iERG)

Teleconference

8 December 2011 - 17:00 - 19:00 Geneva time

Present: Richard Horton, Carmen Barroso, Zulfiqar Bhutta, Marleen Temmerman, Miriam Were, Joy Phumaphi, Dean Jamison

Secretariat: Ramesh Shademani, Natasha Shapovalova

Dr Horton chaired the call. Discussions followed the order of the proposed agenda.

Update from the WHO Secretariat

Bios: the bios of the iERG members will be standardized and sent back to them for their approval. Approved versions accompanied by photos will be published on the WHO-hosted iERG website.

iERG visual identity: the iERG may have their own visual identity based on the Every Woman Every Child branding that can be used for their own WHO-hosted website and outgoing letters. The Secretariat is currently working on options for this.

Website: the Secretariat is currently working on the architecture of the new website. The iERG will be consulted on the details of the website.

Work to be commissioned: Given that iERG, is not a legal entity, it cannot sign administrative documents. As its host, WHO is the legitimate body that has these authorities. Work that iERG requests of WHO or its partners cannot be formalized in the legal sense, although the agreements made between the iERG and those submitting evidence are serious commitments expressing continued support for the process of accountability around Every Woman Every Child and the CoIA.

Information support: a set of generic slides has been prepared for use by iERG members.

Update from the IPU Kenya meeting

Prof Miriam Were informed the group of her participation in the IPU Kenya meeting (5-6 December 2011). She noticed that the meeting was a good opportunity to engage with the regional stakeholders and provide them with update on the iERG activities. For further events of similar scope and nature, Prof Were suggested that the presentation should include additional preamble slides on the context, critical issues and problems of the respective region/country. Those Members of Parliament (MPs) who attended this IPU meeting were from the MDG Caucus group and some members of the Parliamentary Health Committee. Participating MPs stated that they would plan a half a day session at which all MPs will be invited to attend so that all MPs are fully briefed on the important work taking place around MDG 4 & 5 and on how they can follow up this work in their own constituencies. There was appreciation of the 11 indicators as

providing guidance on what MPs would be looking for in their constituencies and in the nations as a whole.

Progress on the report (updates from the Chair and the iERG members)

Formalization of the commissioned work: the iERG members agreed that formalizing collaboration between the iERG and selected partners such as HMN and PMNCH, though being potentially useful to avoid some duplication of activities, is overall unnecessary given the fact that the requested work is already part of the mandate of these entities. The Chair has already contacted HMN, PMNCH, and WHO inviting them to submit information for review and received positive formal responses from all three, which can be considered as notional agreement to perform the work. The iERG noted, however, that the absence of formal agreements documenting timelines and commitments lays increased responsibility on the group, which will have to find effective means of communication with the partners. Neither the iERG nor its WHO-based Secretariat are in a position to provide direct funding for the commissioned work.

With regard to a number of clarification questions sent by PMNCH to the iERG Chair, the group agreed that the Chair will send a reply to PMNCH, answering several questions PMNCH had about the work proposed.

The iERG noted that their core task was to independently review all submitted information and reports. The final report will not reproduce wholly or partially the submitted reports but will rather provide analysis of this information. The group agreed, however, that they might indicate focus areas for analysis to the external partners. The group will welcome a variety of inputs and will find the right language to address potential differences in information coming from various sources. This input can be provided as background papers for the report.

With regard to the specific topics such as humanitarian disasters or vulnerable populations, the Chair indicated that they will need a go-to person or entity to gather these data.

The iERG confirmed that the external reports or background papers and other submissions will be referenced in the iERG report and posted on the website.

Draft proposal for Call for Evidence: the Chair and the group agreed to the drafted proposal with a number of minor modifications. The finalized Call note accompanied by the second blog/message from the Chair will be posted at the iERG section of the current website and circulated via social media tools and available networks of partners.

Web-based progress tracking tool: the iERG received the proposal from HMN in response to the Chair's invitation. The proposal included presentation of the Progress Tracking Tool (PTT) that the partnership is currently using for two main objectives: (1) a tool to support global reporting needs for relevant and comparable data across countries and (2) a methodology to define country indicators, measure and track progress in strengthening country HIS. As suggested by HMN, with very small additional work, the PTT would allow the data requirements for Recommendation One to be collected, including a country data entry option. The iERG asked for a comparative analysis between the PTT and a web monitoring tool based on a project workplan concept that was presented by the Secretariat previously.

Commission on Commodities: the iERG discussed the task of the Commission and its preliminary timeline. It was noted that the Commission is time-bound and engages with the private sector. The Commission is planning to produce its first report by April 2012 that could be referenced in the iERG's report.

Calendar of Critical events

(1) *Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW - UN Women/ECOSOC), 27 Feb - 9 March 2011*: The iERG members noted that this event could bring good visibility to the group's activities. In terms of logistics, it should be noted that side-events might take place at venues different from the main conference. Secretariat is requested to find out how the iERG can be present at this meeting.

(2) *WHA, 21-26 May 2011*: The iERG agreed to meet on **25-26 May** to review collected evidence with **24 May (afternoon)** reserved for a consultation with stakeholders present in Geneva for the occasion of the WHA 2012. The members agreed that a detailed description of format of the consultation will be needed. Secretariat will draft the agenda. The main message will be that the iERG does not control input but welcomes pluralism. Possibility of group discussions was welcomed by the Chair.

(3) *Second meeting - XIX International AIDS Conference in Washington DC, 22-27 July 2011*: the iERG noted that the purpose of the meeting will be to review draft report. The Group envisages two days of work - **27 and 28 July**. PAHO could potentially provide a meeting venue.

(4) *Next TC*: as agreed before, teleconferences will take place on monthly basis. The next 1,5 hour call will take place on **9 January at 5 pm Geneva time**. **10 January** was penciled in as a back up option.

Other issues

Mrs Joy Phumaphi will participate in a meeting in Ethiopia on 19 December.