

Executive Committee Call 15 June 2023

Attended:	Apologies:	Secretariat:
Austin Obiefuna (Vice-Chair), Timur Abdullaev Erika Arthun / John Fawcett Amy Bloom Nasir Ebrahimkhail Peter Owiti / Carol Nawina Nyirenda Teresa Kasaeva David Lewinsohn Subrat Mohanty	Deliana Garcia Cheri Vincent	Lucica Ditiu Jenniffer Dietrich Catie Rosado Sahu Suvanand UNOPS: Andrew Kirkwood Mikkel Broholt Consultant: Naina Dhingra
Minutes of the Call		

- The Executive Committee call was opened by the Vice-Chair, who expressed gratitude to Erika Arthun for her contribution to the Stop TB Partnership over the years, and expressed a hope that she will continue to be involved in the fight against TB. He also welcomed John and Obinna, who will represent the BMGF on the Board and on the Executive Committee.

UNOPS Update

- The Director of UNOPS Office in Geneva briefed the Executive Committee about latest changes passed in UNOPS's Executive Board. He informed about the UNOPS Executive Board (EB) meeting, which took place on 9 June 2023. First, the EB lifted restrictions on S3i, which is an important signal to the partners that UNOPS has overcome the challenges with the S3i. Another positive outcome of the EB meeting is that 48% of actions from the Comprehensive Implementation Plan in Response to the S3i Challenges are now complete. As part of this, the EB made a decision to return USD 120 million of reserve to donors. Lastly, the EB endorsed UNOP's new strategic plan. Importantly, UNOPS has a new cost recovery policy for hosting the Partnership. It took the steps needed to implement the new fee policy for the Partnership, which will lead to the introduction of a fixed fee of 3%, which is a 1/3 reduction from an average fee of 4.5%, which the Partnership has paid in recent years. In terms of implementation, this new fee will be written in all agreements signed from today onwards.
- The Vice Chair thanked Andrew for the presentation and commended UNOPS on the considerable reduction of the hosting fee. The Executive Director added that the 3% PSC is unbeatable among other UN hosts, and commended UNOPS for its progress in getting back on track.

Secretariat's Operational Strategy 2023-2028

- The last Operational Strategy was developed 10 years ago, with support from the BMGF and USAID. While the Global Plan provides a strategy for TB partners at large, the Operational Strategy is specifically for the Secretariat. Input from the Board Strategy process (2022) was used to guide the Operational Strategy development, avoiding a second consultation process. A workshop was held with the extended leadership team (18 people) and other personnel were involved through internal consultations. One important

element that transpired from Secretariat teams, reflecting also how much the Secretariat has evolved, is the desire for cross-collaboration and input. There will be a session with the Board for dialogue where the new Operational Strategy will be presented, and during the summer the final draft will be sent to the Board for electronic approval.

5. The Secretariat, together with the consultants, tried to create something visually nice. Everything is centered on *ending TB through equity, dignity, and access for all people*; and surrounded by “petals” – strategic goals:
 - (i) *Champion ending TB with financing and political action* (which is something to enable the Partnership to raise its voice)
 - (ii) *Mobilize an equitable and inclusive people-centered TB movement*
 - (iii) *Build a stigma-free Community-led, Rights-based, Gender-transformative TB response* (visually the largest petal)
 - (iv) *Catalyze, incubate and scale-up TB innovations* (which includes the work from TB REACH and also INTP, Reimagining TB Care, etc.), and
 - (v) *Facilitate access to quality-assured, affordable TB products* (which is centered around GDF).
6. In the center, there are two concentric circles going across all petals: *Catalyze, Convene and Coordinate Partners*, and *Strengthening country capacity and South-South collaboration*. And under the petals, there are three categories of enablers: *Motivated and passionate people with a diverse, equitable and inclusive culture*; *Transparent and collaborative information sharing within the Secretariat*; and *Efficient, effective, and resourced Secretariat operations, governance and hosting*.
7. Each strategic goal is unpacked into two parts: on the left side is the vision of success, lead, and supporting Secretariat contributors, as well as the linkage to the Global Plan. On the right side are principles of work, objectives, and measures of success.
8. **Discussion:**
 - To the question on how the Operational Strategy is different from the old one, it was explained that linkages to the Global Plan are not the only novelty. The work of the Secretariat has been vertical and a bit siloed, so the Operational Strategy strives to make the work more horizontal, with work streams not defined by team but how they are cross-cutting. The cross-cutting aspect and inter-team arrangements are the major differences. The second thing is that the new Operational Strategy much better defines the way the Secretariat does advocacy and communication.
 - Appreciation for a clear direction and a very detailed analysis, as well as for mentioning stigma, communities, and civil society.
 - During previous discussions, it was agreed to give more focus to community needs. But in the Operational Strategy the communities are not visible enough. It was explained that two out of five strategic areas are about people and communities, which reflects the change on the Board. It was also added that the way community is reflected has also evolved, and from community engagement the Strategy moved to community leadership.
 - It was commented to include the Board among enablers, and it was explained that the Board is considered as part of the governance and is therefore reflected, but the comment was well taken, and it was suggested to look back at the language in order to make it clearer.
 - It was also proposed to consider annual reviews of the Operational Strategy.

9. **Action items:**

- The Secretariat encouraged Executive Committee members to provide comments and specific suggestions on wording, which will be welcomed and reflected in the Strategy. It was agreed that the Executive Committee members will share any comments and specific wording suggestions with the Secretariat.

UN HLM

10. The negotiations on the Political Declaration are ongoing. Next week was supposed to be the last discussion, but as the negotiations are not closed, another date may be proposed. There are a lot of debates and discussions. The entire conversation around community, rights and gender (CRG) seems to be challenged. A big push is going to be needed for the Declaration to at least have what the 2018 Declaration had. And this year, the countries chose to negotiate in groupings, which is good for some countries, but bad for TB. The missions are exhausted, they need to provide input for the three declarations, and their capitals do not provide sufficient input and guidance, so the focus of the advocacy should be on the capitals.
11. The Office of the President of the General Assembly (PGA) will soon start looking into the agenda for the HLM day. TB is not a favorite topic for any high-level person or celebrity, but it will be important to have a high-level speaker in the opening. The Executive Committee is asked to reflect on candidates, ideally an eminent woman (such as Melinda Gates), who would be keen to speak. The other need is, in the next ten days, to provide even more support to missions in NY especially on CRG and vulnerabilities.
12. **Discussion:**
 - It was mentioned that when it comes to negotiations, TB community is a pathfinder, and it was the same in 2018, when the NCD community was copying what TB community was doing, which showed recognition of our collective efforts.
 - However, this time the process is very politicized. Looking at the draft, there are lots of additions, and sometimes minor grammar-related disagreements that delay the process considerably, while things that really matter for TB, such as specific financial targets, remain unaddressed.
13. **Action items:**
 - The Executive Committee to support missions in New York in the next ten days on the language of the Political Declaration, especially on CRG, vulnerabilities for these to be mentioned.
 - The Executive Committee to suggest possible candidates for the key speaker role at the UN HLM.

Governance: new Executive Committee

14. Given the shortage of time, it was mentioned that the changes in the Executive Committee composition are part of the broader Board Strategy Review. The recommendation is for the Executive Committee to allow the Secretariat to put out the call for the TB Key and Vulnerable Populations Constituency and Innovations Constituency, and then finalize the Executive Committee composition review after all Board Members have been identified.
15. **Action item:**
 - The Secretariat to proceed with the call for the two new constituencies (TB Key and Vulnerable Populations and Innovations).

37th Stop TB Partnership Board Meeting

16. The Secretariat is in touch with colleagues in Brazil. Everybody should receive invitations and save-the-date in June. Board Affairs will provide necessary support for participants from countries that need visas.
17. The schedule looks as follows: February 5: premeeting; February 6 and 7: Board meeting; February 8: TB Summit and in the evening departures. It should be noted that on February 9 and 10, there will be the annual Carnival in Rio-de-Janeiro, so Board members may want to make personal deviations to attend this.
18. **Action item:**
 - The Secretariat will follow up with Board members with invitations, save-the-date calendar invites during June, and will provide support with visas as needed until the end of the year.