

# Uniting Partnership Board Meeting

**Date:** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Attendees:** Rebeca Grynspan, Peter Stevenson, Maimouna Diop Ly, Mona Hammami, Ellen Agler, Silvia Gold, Francisca Mutapi, Rieko Suzuki Kitaoka, Chris White

**Secretariat:** Thoko Elphick-Pooley, Matt Turney, Mark Warrilow-Thomson, Jo Hearn

**Observers:** Mark Ramsden (Sightsavers)

## Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction
  - a. Agenda overview
  - b. Notice of any other business
  - c. Board meeting actions
2. Welcome to Rebeca Grynspan
3. Presentation of Year 1 report
4. Update on the Kigali Summit
5. Finance Committee update
6. Governance Committee update
7. AOB

### 1. Board actions from last meeting

Action	Responsible	Status
1. The Secretariat to provide the Board with an update on the Chair recruitment	Secretariat	Complete - Rebeca Grynspan confirmed as Chair
2. The Secretariat to enact the recruitment and nominations process for Board members as soon as possible.	Secretariat	Under way
3. The Secretariat to schedule and diarise the 2022 meetings.	Secretariat	Complete
4. Board Governance Committee to revisit the nomination list used for Board chair recruitment as potential Board members recruits.	Secretariat	Under way
5. Board members to contact the secretariat if the proposed Board meeting dates for 2022 are not convenient.	Board	Complete

## 2. Welcome to Rebeca Grynspan

- Peter Stevenson welcomed Rebeca Grynspan to the Board in her capacity as the new Board Chair.
- Ms Grynspan noted her enthusiasm for being part of this movement. The Board then introduced themselves.

## 3. Presentation of Year 1 report

- An overview was provided of the Year 1 Report. The report was shared as a pre-read to the meeting,
- Highlights include:
- Aim 1: Increase relevance of NTDS in global and regional agendas
  - The African Union (AU) Continental Framework and Common Africa Position on NTDs. Uniting will also be entering an MOU with the AU, which will allow them to intervene more specifically on NTDs – including the mobilisation of endorsements for the Kigali Declaration.
  - Germany included NTDs in their global development strategy.
  - High-level leaders from endemic countries were mobilised for key moments and initiatives, and advocates from endemic countries expanded to include young people
- Aim 2: Mobilise international and national resources
  - Uniting supported coalitions helped to drive work around mobilising additional funding for NTDs, including Germany confirming a new ECOWAS NTD programme, expanded support for ESPEN and CEMAC; Japan agreed additional funding for ESPEN.
- Aim 3: Facilitate an engaged partnership
  - Uniting conducted a partner baseline survey. Responses were favourable overall, and their helpful suggestions led to planned actions for improvement, which were communicated back to partners.
  - Strengthening partnership collaboration, such as defined engagement processes, restructured the Communications Coordination Group, and consulted extensively on the Kigali Declaration.
- Several priorities for Year 2 were outlined. It was noted that Year 2 to date has involved the preparation and delivery of the 100% committed campaign launch event on 27 January which provided the platform for kicking off the Kigali Declaration.
- A highlight of the event was securing three leaders of countries affected by NTDs to be the first to sign the Kigali Declaration: President of Nigeria, Prime Minister of Rwanda, President of Tanzania.

## 4. Update on the Kigali Declaration

- The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting has been confirmed for the week of the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. It is confirmed that the malaria and NTD summit will take place on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**, the day before the heads of government meeting.
- Sector specific objectives had also been established. For NTDs, these included:
  - Launching of the Kigali Declaration on NTDs, with a strong focus on mobilising signatories from Heads of Government
  - Platform to showcase the contribution of NTD investments and the COVID-19 response
  - Platform for new announcements by donors, multi-laterals, and the private sector & pharmaceutical companies.
  - Platform for announcements of new, strategic collaborative partnerships in support of the new NTD Roadmap
- The summit will be split into a morning session, and high-level session in the afternoon.

- The Kigali Declaration will be unveiled at the high-level session with signatories and headline commitments.
- The launch of the 100% Committed campaign on 27<sup>th</sup> January kicked off endorsements and commitments to the Kigali Declaration.

## **5. Finance Committee Update**

- Peter Stevenson provided an overview of the Year 2 (November 2021 to October 2022) budget

## **6. Governance Committee Update**

- Board member recruitment is under way as Uniting is looking to recruit Board members for the open positions currently available.
- The secretariat will create and share a Board member recruitment information pack, which Board members can circulate with their networks.

## **7. AOB**

- Following the sad passing of Dr Mwelecele Malecela, Thoko was able to travel to Dar es Salaam to represent the international NTD community at her funeral.
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