

Uniting Board Q3 2022 Meeting Minutes

Date and time: Thursday 29th September 2022

Board member attendees: Peter Stevenson (Chair), Mona Hammami, Katey Owen, Maimouna Diop Ly, Silvia Gold, Francisca Mutapi, Rieko Suzuki Kitaoka, Michael Schöettler

Observers: Mark Ramsden (Sightsavers)

Secretariat: Thoko Elphick-Pooley, Denise Turley, Victoria Sykes, Matt Turney, Jordi Knight

Apologies: Rebeca Grynspan, Helge Braun, Ellen Agler

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction

- a) Welcome to new board members and quick round of introductions
- b) Agenda overview
- c) Notice of any other business
- d) Board meeting actions from Q1

2. Update on Year 2 progress

- a) Update on year 2 progress
- b) Report on Kigali Summit

3. Year 3 priorities

4. Uniting Financials

5. Governance Committee

6. AOB

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Michael Schöettler, appointed to the board in June, 2022 was welcomed to the Board.
- Prof. Dr Helge Braun who has also joined the Board but unfortunately couldn't attend this meeting was welcomed and introduced in absentia. There followed a quick round of introductions from the rest of the board members.
- Board actions from the last meeting, as detailed in the meeting slides, were noted as complete.

2a. Update on year 2 progress

- The Secretariat provided an overview of progress against the year 2 workplan, which included; the delivery of a successful Kigali Summit, significant progress against a number of key areas in the strategy, including securing new funding from a diversified donor pool, with sufficient funding secured for year 2.
- Year 2 Governance progress was outlined, and this included the appointment of a new Chair to the Board Rebeca Grynspan; Michael and Helge joining the board as new members.
- The Year 2 funding status for Uniting's strategy and operation plan was outlined, highlighting secured funding from CIFF for the AU engagement work as well as secured funding from CPC.
- Thoko highlighted the launch of the 100% committed campaign and high-level endorsements of the Kigali declaration.
- There was success in emphasis on endemic country leadership resulting in an MOU with the AU and a resolution on NTDs adopted by ECOWAS.
- Successes highlighted in donor countries included explicit mentions of NTDs in the G7 Communique, CHOGM Communique and TICAD 8. Additionally, Five of the seven G7 countries endorsed the Kigali Declaration and a Donor Roundtable is in progress.
- An NTD pooled funding study was undertaken with results to be shared in due course.
- The full report for year 2 will be made available in February 2023.

2b. Spotlight on the Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs

The Kigali Summit report is available [here](#)

3 . Commitments Tracker

- A presentation made to the Board on the commitments tracker with an overview of key aspects of the tracker, the dashboard and highlighting some major commitments.
- Phase 2 will include partner profiles featured on the dashboard, country commitments on the tracker and working with the Government of Rwanda to follow up and report on commitments. The dashboard will be launched on World NTD day in January 2023
- Information is provided in coordination with each partner, with commitment data currently provided on a stakeholder group level as well as by disease. Depending on the situation partners want different levels visibility of their commitments.

4. Year 3 Priorities

- A presentation provided an overview of Year 3 priorities:
- The Kigali Declaration was not a one-off event but rather an ongoing process. Therefore, a key priority will be to mobilise additional commitments and endorsements of the Declaration.
- To increase endorsements to the Kigali Declaration by all sectors with emphasis on endemic countries and the private sector. To resource the declaration with a focus on working with high burden endemic countries and then to follow through with the Commitment tracker and accountability mechanisms with the Government of Rwanda.
- The Board was requested to approve a Government of Rwanda secondment to sit within the Ministry of Health to contact countries on the extent of the implementation of the communiqué.- this was approved.
- To embed the AU Continental Framework and the Common African Position within Member States. AU wide advocacy for the domestication of the CF into national programmes and implementation of the CAP recommendations
- To continue work to get NTDs prioritised in multilateral for and landscape regional organisations in areas other than Africa. As well as looking at advocacy opportunities in areas such as Climate

Change at COP27

- Meaningful implementation of commitments made in Communiqués at G7, TICAD8, CHOGM
- To explore whether Human Rights can be a mechanism to increase visibility of NTDs
- To continue partnership engagement including webinars and highlighting opportunities for collaboration and engagement in other engagement strategies.
- Governance and funding: to address Board member terms rolling off and enact recruitment, a strategy review, secretariat funding especially for years 4 and 5 and standing up co-chairs of the Consultative Forum and filling empty seats.
- Communications and backbone systems to ensure that front facing assets are up to standard such as the website and implementing a new CRM system
- To celebrate elimination successes with the recent example of the Togo and Malawi eliminations.

4. Uniting Financials

- The Finance Committee provided a financial overview:
 1. Year 2 was successful from a financial perspective with near term finances secure and additional funding secured, providing a head start to year 3.
- A reminder provided of the 5-year operational plan budget and the funding landscape, with the current four funders. An overview of the current secretariat staffing organisational chart with detail on vacant positions
- Decision: The Board approved the establishment of a Board Resource Mobilisation Committee

Action: Secretariat to develop Terms of Reference and engage Board members to join a Board Resource Mobilisation Committee to focus on fundraising for delivery of the Uniting strategy and operational plan

4. Governance Committee

- There was insufficient time to cover this agenda item during the meeting

5. AOB

- NTDs and the G7 Summit