

Teleconference Executive committee (Ex Comm. 23 - 29 April 2009)
(Draft) Minutes

Attended:	Not able to attend:	Secretariat
Irene Koek (Chair) Mario Raviglione Peter Small Giorgio Roscigno	Jean François de Lavison Jeremiah Chakaya Ken Castro	Marcos Espinal Alan Esser
Minutes on discussions	Decision	Action
1. Venue of the 17th Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board Meeting		
<p>In light of the global financial crisis, Irene and Marcos briefed the Executive Committee on the cost implications for holding the next Coordinating Board meeting in Hanoi, Viet Nam versus holding the meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. It was explained that an estimated USD 50,000 could be saved by holding the meeting in Geneva rather than Hanoi.</p> <p>Marcos also briefed Executive Committee members on the scheduling of a meeting of WHO Country Representatives at HQ during the same week (2-6 November) as the proposed meeting in Hanoi. As a potential travel ban would be in effect for all WHO staff during this period, travel by Partnership and Department staff to and from Hanoi would be complicated. Additionally, the opportunity to engage WHO Country Representatives during a possible special session on TB around the CB meeting could help to further the agenda of TB and the Partnership.</p>		
<p>Participants weighed the pros and cons of holding the meeting in Hanoi versus Geneva. Given the financial crisis, it was believed that the savings (50K) would demonstrate how significant the partnership was taking the crisis, as well as providing funds for other key activities.</p> <p>The ExCom also carefully weighed possible political implications of postponing the meeting in Hanoi in terms of TB control in Viet Nam and Vietnamese engagement in the Partnership, both of which were deemed to be top priorities.</p>	<p>Consensus was reached, based upon the financial crisis and the conflict of a parallel meeting of WRs in Geneva limiting the travel of WHO staff, to hold the next CB meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, 5-6 November 2009, and to make a firm commitment to the Vietnamese to hold the next meeting in spring 2010 in Hanoi, Viet Nam.</p> <p>In the interim, a special high level mission to Viet Nam may be warranted to raise a number of issues, including offering further assurance to the Vietnamese of the commitment of the Partnership to Viet Nam.</p>	<p>Secretariat to draft a letter from the Board Chair, on behalf of the Board, to the Vietnamese informing them of the decision and reassuring them of the commitment of the Partnership to Viet Nam.</p>