

Executive Committee Call 14 September 2023

Attended:	Apologies:	Secretariat:
Austin Obiefuna (Vice-Chair), Timur Abdullaev Erika Arthun / John Fawcett Amy Bloom Carrie Lehmeier / Nasir Ebrahimkhail Peter Owiti / Carol Nawina Nyirenda David Lewinsohn John Fawcett Subrat Mohanty	Deliana Garcia Teresa Kasaeva Cheri Vincent	Lucica Ditiu Jenniffer Dietrich Catie Rosado Sahu Suvanand Kerrie Tyas Brazil: Draurio Barreira Fernanda Dockhorn Tatiana Estrela Ana Carolina Oliveira
Minutes of the Call		

- The Executive Committee call was opened by the Vice Chair, who welcomed Carrie Lehmeier, Deputy Director at Global Affairs Canada, responsible for multilateral programming on infectious diseases and pandemic preparedness. Carrie Lehmeier became the new member of the Stop TB Partnership Board and the Executive Committee representing donors from Canada.

UN High-Level Meeting on TB

- The Executive Director gave an overview of the preparations to the second United Nations High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly (UNHLM) on the fight against tuberculosis that will be held on 22 September 2023. She highlighted the challenges faced in terms of the development of the Political Declaration as well as high-level representation at meeting. While the draft of the Political Declaration on TB is stronger than those on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPPR), it is still missing some important elements.
- The Executive Director also mentioned that the UNHLM on TB may not have many Heads of State and Heads of Government present, who are either not coming at all or leaving before the UNHLM begins. The Stop TB Partnership was able to secure a recorded message from Thiago da Silva, a Brazilian professional football star who had TB. However, the recording was not accepted by the President of the General Assembly as it did not meet its requirements. Unfortunately, the Chair of the Stop TB Partnership will not be able to travel to the UNHLM as, the Indian government will be holding a parliamentary session on 18-22 September.
- There are several events taking place around the UNHLM on TB.
 - On 19 September 2023 in the morning, the Stop TB Partnership will launch the Coalition of Leaders to End TB (CoOL) where several Heads of State, Heads of Delegation and Ministers of Health from several countries will join.
 - In the same evening, the TB Innovation Summit will take place, with several Ministers of Health attending.

- c. On September 20th, there will be an event in the UN building to celebrate the winners of the Kochon Award and the Round 12 of grants of the Challenge Facility for Civil Society.
 - d. In the evening of September 21st, an event on TB prevention will take place, co-organized by CDC and the CDC Foundation.
 - e. On September 22nd, right before the UNHLM, there will be a media breakfast in the UN building.
5. The UN HLM event itself will consist of the opening plenary followed by two parallel panels. At the opening, the Vice-Chair will speak. Other speakers will include TB survivors, such as Handaa Rea, a TB survivor, who was supported by the Stop TB Partnership to publish her book, and Naomi Wanjiru, who won a Kochon Award a few years ago.
 6. The Executive Director concluded by mentioning that the Stop TB Partnership, with the support from the New York Health Department printed 75 UN passes with TB messages on them, and put the Tuberculosis sign on public buses. Additionally, a video about TB and its symptoms will be played on one of the screens on Times Square.
 7. The Secretariat is working closely with partners and with the President of the General Assembly to ensure that both the UNHLM and the resulting Political Declaration are successful. What remains important is how the TB community will organize itself after the UNHLM to ensure that the commitments are put into practice. The Vice-Chair highlighted the considerable challenges faced both with ensuring the high-level attendance and the solid language of the Political Declaration; and agreed with the focus on translating the commitments and targets of the Political Declaration into actions and results.
- 8. Discussion:**
- While lack of high-level attendance at the UNHLM is a point of frustration, the Secretariat should be congratulated for the number of advocates leveraged in the lead-up to the UN HLM, as well as the program, the positive activity, and engagement of decision-makers around the TB Innovation Summit.
 - The President of Kenya is going to New York, and the Kenyan Government is organizing a side-event on primary healthcare, this should be a lesson learned to organize similarly with a government for TB.

37th Stop TB Partnership Board Meeting

9. The Executive Director introduced Draurio Barreira, Director of the Department of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Viral Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections of the Ministry of Health of Brazil, Tatiana Estrela, Advisor of the Department, and Fernanda Dockhorn, the NTP Manager of Brazil.
10. The Brazilian team informed that they are hosting three important meetings in the next 12 months (Unitaid's Board meeting, Stop TB Partnership's Board meeting and the GAVI Board), and they will also host the UNAIDS PCB meeting in 2025. The team will mobilize national stakeholders to raise awareness on TB elimination; this is in line with President Lula's initiative, who created in April 2023 an inter-ministerial committee to end TB and other poverty-related diseases. Nine Brazilian ministers are engaged in the inter-ministerial committee, and four more ministries have requested to be included.
11. Brazil will convene a high-level meeting on February 8th that will gather all national and some regional stakeholders, the 13 ministers of the inter-ministerial committee, strategic stakeholders and many civil society organizations. The Minister of Health confirmed the attendance on all three days of the Board Meeting and high-level event. However, a lot will depend on the outcomes of the UNHLM in New York.

During the UN General Assembly session, the President of Brazil will be the first speaker, followed by US President Biden. The team is trying to include one sentence about Brazil's commitment to TB elimination in the speech of President Lula.

12. The Brazilian team is hoping to secure attendance of President Lula in the Stop TB Partnership Board meeting. The team also hopes to have a regional declaration (e.g., a Brasilia Declaration to End TB) at the end of the Board meeting, which would reflect the commitment of Brazil and other countries in the Americas.
13. The Secretariat provided an update on the logistics of the next Board meeting. The venue is being finalized, and a practical information note was prepared. The Secretariat thanked the team of Brazil for their support with the visas. February 6th and 7th are Board meeting days, with an official dinner on the first day. There are discussions about pre-meetings, which may take place on February 5, so most people are expected to arrive on 4th or 5th at the latest and depart on the 9th April. Site visits are being discussed as well.
14. The Executive Director presented the first draft of the agenda of the 37th Board meeting with topics and timing suggested by the Secretariat. The total amount of time allocated for the Board meeting is 11.5 hours or about two days, but taking into account that the Board usually requires more time than planned, it is proposed to rather drop something than add more.
 - a. The meeting will start with an opening session, where Brazil as the host country will have a high-level speaker.
 - b. The second agenda item is on the UNHLM and what it will take to achieve the targets, including high-level advocacy through the Coalition of Leaders to End TB and other initiatives.
 - c. The third session will be on TB vaccines to discuss the current vaccine landscape, challenges and opportunities for TB vaccine development and roll-out. Notably, Brazil will also host a Global TB Vaccine Forum later in 2024, so the session will set the scene for that conference.
 - d. The fourth session, inspired by the innovation session at the 36th Board meeting, is to present TB innovations from Brazil and South America.
 - e. Next session focuses on community-led monitoring and OnelImpact, the TB CLM tool developed by the Partnership for TB affected communities, which is now implemented in more than 20 countries.
 - f. Session 6 will be either on GDF or on TB REACH depending on feedback from the Committee.
 - g. Following tradition, there will be a session on the Global Fund.
 - h. Session 8 will have a report from the Finance Committee, the Action Plan and DEI work.
15. **Discussion:**
 - The CLM session is focused around civil society activities and could therefore include the Challenge Facility for Civil Society as part of the session. It was also suggested to include presentations from countries with experience of implementing OnelImpact.
 - Adding a session on TB vaccine was appreciated. It was also pointed out that community engagement in the roll-out and financing would be very important topics for discussion in that session.
 - The Developing Country NGO and Community Delegations are working on a side event, something similar to a pre-Board meeting event that took place in Varanasi in 2023.
16. **Action items:**
 - The Secretariat will continue working on the Board meeting agenda and side events
 - Board members to book their travels and start preparing for the next Board meeting

Governance – Board Strategy Review implementation

17. The Executive Committee was briefed on the progress in implementation of the Board Strategy Review. The aim is that all new Board members will be identified and present in the 37th Board meeting.
18. For the Key and Vulnerable Populations constituency it was reported that the call for constituency members was published and was open for about six weeks. More than 60 applications were received and screened by a panel against eligibility criteria. As an outcome, 19 members were identified as the start of this constituency, and many applications were parked for follow-up by the constituency itself in order to confirm membership eligibility. The constituency formed two working groups, one to follow up on the parked applications of interest to join the constituency and the other to work on selection of the Board Members.
19. For the Innovation constituency, it was mentioned that a meeting in Geneva was organized, where the participants outlined the membership in the constituency (people representing areas of focus rather than specific working groups or other constituencies). Over the last few weeks a process for nominating constituency members is underway. A call is being organized on September 18 to form the initial interim core group, which will work on the key areas of focus and identify a Board member, at least temporarily, for the 37th Board meeting. More information will be shared.
20. For the multilateral seat, the Secretariat suggested, based on the feedback from the Executive Committee, that the seat goes to one of the development banks, and the Executive Committee would identify the development bank. And still invite other development banks to come to the Board meetings over the next three years, serving as counsel to the Board member. By the end of this three-year term, they will decide how to carry on the representation of the seat.
21. As to the open seat, which can be utilized for many types of representations, the Secretariat proposed to the Executive Committee to give the seat to one of regional organizations, possibly the African Union, for the term of three years. After this first term, the Executive Committee can consider another regional organization for the seat.
22. The work on identifying the Board member for the vacant donor seat is going to be completed by the group of donors.
23. **Action items:**
 - The Secretariat to continue supporting the constituencies and the finalization of the implementation of the Board Strategy Review on behalf of the Executive Committee
 - Update on the donor seat is to be provided at one of the upcoming Executive Committee calls