

## Executive Committee Call 23 May 2024

Attended:	Apologies:	Secretariat:
Austin Obiefuna (EC Chair), Timur Abdullaev Amy Bloom (for Cheri Vincent) John Fawcett (for Obinna Onyekwena) Deliana Garcia / Subrat Mohanty Teresa Kasaeva Carrie Lehmeier / Nasir Ebrahimkhail David Lewinsohn Peter Owiti / Carol Nyirenda	Obinna Onyekwena Cheri Vincent	Lucica Ditiu Jenniffer Dietrich Catie Rosado Suvanand Sahu  <b>Nigeria team:</b> Dr. Chukwuma Anyaike Mayowa Joel
<b>Minutes of the Call</b>		

### 1. 38<sup>th</sup> Stop TB Partnership Board meeting

1. The meeting started with Vice-Chair welcoming Executive Committee members, introducing two members of the Board Planning Committee from Nigeria and then passing the floor to the Secretariat for an update. The Secretariat is scheduling a meeting with the Nigerian delegation attending the World Health Assembly to discuss the Board meeting in more detail.
2. As to the agenda of the 38<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, the Secretariat explained that the Opening will be in the morning of Thursday, 12 December 2024. Friday, 13 December, is a full Board meeting day, and Saturday, 14 December, is half a day again. Pre-Board meeting activities are being discussed, including a pre-Board briefing about the Working Groups and their plans for 2025. There may also be a side event – a Regional High-Level Meeting, featuring attendance of the President or Prime-Minister and the participation of Ministers of Health from the region; the date is yet to be agreed on.
3. The Board Meeting agenda will tentatively consist of nine sessions, including:
  - Opening session
  - 2023 UNHLM
  - TB Vaccine
  - Innovations from Africa
  - GDF
  - End TB Stigma
  - Global Fund session
  - Secretariat session
  - Governance and Closing session
4. Over the next few weeks, the Secretariat is planning to work with the colleagues in Nigeria to have the invitation letters done as soon as possible; first invitation letters are to be sent to Board Members either in May or early in June, and then the following month to the rest of participants. The work on the list of participants is under way, and the Executive Committee was requested to suggest to the Secretariat the names of prominent people, who could be invited to attend the Board meeting. The Executive Committee

members were encouraged to explore which documents are required to obtain the visa for Nigeria and to address the Secretariat for support. It is expected that getting the Nigerian visa may be more labor-intensive as compared to the Brazilian visa, but the Secretariat will work with the government of Nigeria to find ways to streamline the visas for the participants. The Secretariat was also seeking guidance from the Executive Committee regarding sight visits.

5. Dr Anyaïke provided an update on the work happening in Nigeria in preparation to the 38<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. The work is under way to ensure participation of the President. In terms of logistics, invitation letters will be provided.
6. **Discussion points**
  - As in the past, civil society Delegations will have their meetings before the Board Meeting
  - For the Innovations session, it was proposed to add a focus on prevention – both primary (vaccines) and secondary (including screening and diagnostics), and to highlight the outcomes of the Vaccine Forum (taking place in October) in the TB Vaccine session.
  - The 2023 UNHLM session will focus on the progress made so far and follow-up actions; the title of the session should be changed accordingly
  - The ‘Innovations from the Region’ session should showcase innovations not only from Nigeria
  - For the End TB Stigma session, it was proposed to engage people coming from a range of backgrounds, who are affected by different types and manifestations of stigma
  - To expand the Global Fund session to include other major donors, such as USAID
  - The HLM on AMR (September 2024) should be reflected in the Board agenda
7. **Action items:**
  - The Secretariat to meet with the Nigerian delegation during the WHA
  - The Secretariat will provide a revised agenda incorporating the feedback from the Executive Committee
  - The Secretariat will provide monthly updates on the preparations to the Board Meeting

## 2. Governance update

8. Expression of interest to join the Executive Committee was opened on May 1 with a deadline of May 31; a reminder was sent to all Board members on May 14. There are four vacant seats, of which two seats are for TB-affected voices (six TB affected countries, Developing Country NGOs, private sector providers from high TB burden countries, and KVP), and the remaining two – to the other Board members (donors, foundations, private sector, developed country NGOs, and innovations constituency). The Executive Committee members were requested to remind their colleagues about the opportunity to express their interest. After the deadline, Vice-Chair will review the nominations and give a recommendation to the Executive Committee, after which the Executive Committee presents the candidates for approval to the Board.
9. Regarding the process of selecting the Chair, a meeting was held with the Secretary of Health of The Philippines to brief him about the role of the Chair and what it entails. The best time to announce the incoming Chair of the Board is being discussed.
10. **Action item:**
  - The Secretariat will provide information about the candidate for the position of the Chair

- Secretariat to share with the Executive Committee the draft email to the Board with the announcement

### 3. Updates on recent advocacy efforts

11. Vice-Chair and several Board members briefed the Executive Committee on the **UNHLM on AMR multistakeholder hearing**. He thanked WHO for the overall organization and the co-facilitators for handling the process. He emphasized the importance of meetings with the missions before the event. He commended the Secretariat for its support with data and the messaging. The draft Political Declaration was published, and it has a paragraph speaking specifically about TB, which is the direct result of the work before and during the multistakeholder hearing. It should be a priority to have a Minister of Health from one of the high MDR-TB burden countries in September 2024 to push for TB in the AMR agenda.
12. WHO included TB in its updated **Priority Pathogens List** as part of the “critical” group. Non-inclusion of TB in the previous edition of the List was highly criticized by the TB community.
13. The Secretariat is organizing events during the upcoming WHA (on screening for TB and other diseases; on TB and AMR; and on Africa). Mission of Poland will organize a meeting on TB, and there will be a closed meeting of the TB Vaccine Accelerator Council. There will also be an AMR roundtable, where TB will be featured.