



## **GAVI Alliance Executive Committee Meeting**

30 July 2012  
Teleconference

### **FINAL MINUTES**

#### **1. Chair's report**

- 1.1 Finding a quorum of members present, the meeting commenced at 16.05 Geneva time on 30 July 2012. Dagfinn Høybråten, Executive Committee Chair, chaired the meeting.
- 1.2 Standing declarations of interest were tabled to the Committee (Doc 01a in the Committee pack).

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#### **2. CEO Report**

- 2.1 Seth Berkley gave his report to the EC highlighting that the Secretariat is working hard to implement the decisions taken by the Board at its meeting in June 2012. He referred in particular to the work in relation to identifying the business plan priorities for 2013-2014 and informed the EC that arising from the decision taken in relation to programme funding approvals an envelope amount for the upcoming year will be proposed to the Board for approval at its December 2012 meeting.
  - At the invitation of the CEO, Wayne Berson, Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee (AFC), informed the EC that the external auditors had given GAVI an unqualified audit opinion on the 2011 GAVI financial statements. The AFC however was dissatisfied with the view expressed by the external auditors regarding a particular valuation methodology with which they had previously concurred. The AFC had therefore asked the external auditors to reassess that matter before the AFC makes a recommendation to the Board.
  - The CEO highlighted two items in particular which are being worked on for submission to the Board in December, namely the country-by-country approach and the long-term funding strategy.
  - He referred to the continued focus on quality of data, also in light of the WHO and UNICEF 2011 DTP3 estimates published recently in which 9 GAVI countries have estimates revised downwards as much as 38% and six upwards with as much as a 20% increase. Targets will have to be adjusted accordingly because of the baseline changes. There are ongoing discussions

with partners on improving data and on the holding of a data summit to discuss what can be done across the Alliance to improve this process.

- The CEO referred to IFFIm's two successful bond issuances despite the difficult market conditions, and ongoing discussions with the World Bank, the IFFIm Board and Donors on how best to manage the risk environment. There are also preliminary discussions on whether IFFIm could be used to contribute to polio eradication.
- The CEO reminded the EC that the Board, at their retreat in April 2012, had considered a cholera vaccine stockpile as an investment option. The Secretariat had planned to present this further to the Board in December 2012. However based on the wish expressed by the Board in June to see future investments in the context of other potential investments and ensure appropriate review by Board Committees the Secretariat proposes to include information on a cholera vaccine stockpile for consideration as part of the new vaccine investment strategy for discussion in June 2013.
- The CEO reported briefly on the work being carried out in relation to Health system strengthening (HSS) and informed the EC that the first meeting of the HSS Technical Advisory Group will be held in September.
- In relation to vaccines the CEO highlighted that pentavalent has now become a standard in GAVI countries with 68 of the 73 GAVI's-eligible countries now having launched a Hib-containing vaccine. He informed the EC that GAVI has launched the application guidelines for national introduction of HPV and that the application guidelines for the HPV demonstration programme will be launched shortly. He then updated the EC on the evolution of the supply situation in relation to pentavalent, rotavirus and pneumococcal vaccines.
- The CEO concluded his report with some information on the ongoing restructuring in the Secretariat and forthcoming events including his and/or the Deputy CEO's participation in WHO regional meetings.

### *Discussion*

- The Chair thanked the CEO for his report. He expressed concern in particular about developments around coverage rates and the underlying concerns about the quality of data. The EC noted that a number of partners are proactive on this issue and agreed that it would make sense to work on this together, also with some external experts. It was noted that USAID, with UNICEF and WHO, are organising a related meeting in October and that GAVI would be welcome to attend.
- The EC noted the dissatisfaction expressed by the AFC in relation to the external auditors. Currently the GAVI Alliance is required to use the same external auditors as the World Bank and the EC welcomed the World Bank's agreement to look into this further.

- The EC agreed with the proposal to include information on a cholera vaccine stockpile as part of the discussion on the new vaccine investment strategy in 2013.
- At the request of the donor constituency it was agreed that a short written update on the supply situation would be circulated in advance of EC meetings. The Chair commended the CEO and the Secretariat on the work being carried out with countries and partners on this issue.
- Flavia Bustreo offered to present an update on the ongoing debate on thiomersal to the EC at its next meeting.

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### **3. Programme Funding Approvals**

- 3.1 Barry Greene presented the updated GAVI financial forecast for 2011-2020, which incorporates decisions taken at the June 2012 Board meeting and which had been reviewed by the AFC at their meeting the previous week. He informed the EC that the programme funding decisions being presented to them do not increase the overall forecast of expenditure that the Board reviewed in June because they had been provided for with that forecast. He further informed the EC that these decisions were in conformity with the GAVI Programme Funding policy, and the Chair of the AFC confirmed this.

#### *Discussion*

- Some members of the EC asked for clarification of particular numbers presented in the financial forecast and this was provided. The EC agreed that in the future GAVI would have to consider widening its donor base.
- The EC noted that the IRC had highlighted an improvement in the quality of health system strengthening proposals. The donor constituency did however express concern that countries are still not getting the support they need in preparing their proposals and that the constituency would like to see thoughts about how best to support this going forward.
- The donor constituency understands that there may be a need to do a pre-screening of HFSP proposals but asked whether WHO is the appropriate partner to do this. It was clarified that WHO has indicated that they do not wish to do the pre-screening and indeed for the May 2012 IRC WHO had facilitated the pre-screening which had been conducted by independent experts.
- The EC noted that further analysis will be done on unit costs with the aim of ensuring that the IRC has all necessary information to fully evaluate the proposals.
- It was noted that a number of weaknesses highlighted by the IRC, e.g. monitoring and evaluation, will be addressed through the business plan.

There will be a significant shift both in the focus of the business plan as well as the specific activities which will be carried out to enhance the performance of HSS. It will be essential to work closely with partners on this.

### **Decision One**

#### **The GAVI Alliance Executive Committee:**

- **Approved** the recommendations of the HSFP IRC in relation to:
  - a) 9 HSFP applications (6 new and 3 resubmissions from the previous HSFP IRC)
  - b) 3 grant renewal requests including two reprogramming (Nepal – grant renewal through joint annual review, Burundi and Guinea-Bissau – reprogramming)
  - c) 1 CSO Type B grant extension request from DR Congo.

### **Decision Two**

#### **The GAVI Alliance Executive Committee:**

- **Endorsed** a net increase in programme budgets by US\$ 57,470,936.

These endorsements would constitute acknowledgement of such budget amounts but would not constitute a funding approval, decision, obligation or commitment of the GAVI Alliance or its contributors.
- **Approved** a net increase of near-term programme liabilities (a sub-component of endorsed programme budgets) by US\$ 25,661,758.

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#### **4. Review of decisions**

- 4.1 Debbie Adams, Managing Director, Law and Governance, reviewed the decision language with the Committee.

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#### **5. Any other business**

##### *Discussion*

- A member of the donor constituency indicated their wish that the Board have a deeper understanding of the risks to GAVI and to the GAVI Board and in this context would like the Board to be provided with a consolidated report of risks across GAVI. It was suggested that there are risks which are not addressed in the risk register and that there should be a discussion by the Board on whether certain risks are acceptable.



**GAVI Alliance Executive Committee Meeting**  
30 July 2012

- One member of the EC expressed a preference for the Board discussions to be more strategic and also alerted the EC to the possible consequences of making such risk discussions public.
- The Chair noted that the Board received regular updates on risks and the handling of them from Director of Internal Audit and the CEO.
- It was agreed that the EC, at their next meeting, would hold a preliminary discussion on how this issue could be taken forward, on the format for reporting and on how it is dealt with at different levels within the Alliance.

After determining there was no further business, the meeting was brought to a close.

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Ms Debbie Adams  
Secretary to the Board

## **Attachment A**

### **Participants**

#### **Committee Members**

- Dagfinn Høybråten, Chair
- Cristian Baeza
- Amie Batson
- Wayne Berson
- Flavia Bustreo
- Guillermo González González
- Steve Landry (Alternate)
- George W. Wellde Jr.
- Seth Berkley (non-voting)

#### **Regrets**

- Geeta Rao Gupta, Vice Chair
- Ashutosh Garg

#### **GAVI**

- Debbie Adams
- Helen Evans
- Joanne Goetz
- Barry Greene
- Bakhuti Shengelia

#### **Observers**

- Susanne McKinney