

Summary: Informal Global Health Agency Leaders Meeting World Bank Group New York Office, September 24, 2013

Background: World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim and WHO Director-General Margaret Chan co-chaired the meeting. The co-chairs explained that these informal meetings were initiated to piggy-back on events such as UNGA and bring global health agency leaders together to help accelerate progress on shared agendas, including the health MDGs. At the last informal meeting of global health agency leaders during the April 2013 World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington, participants reaffirmed their commitment to the development effectiveness agenda through the International Health Partnership (IHP+) and agreed on improving seven behaviors of development partners for concerted action toward alignment around country health plans.

Discussion: The co-chairs discussed progress and obstacles on realizing the IHP+ principles, and proposed that agencies commit to joint action in one specific area: streamlining measurement of results and accountability. Participants expressed strong support for moving this aspect of the IHP+ forward. Comments focused around three areas: i) better measurement of results; ii) better alignment in the measurement of results; and iii) better linkages of measurement of results to decision-making.

Better Measurement of Results: Participants discussed the challenges of measuring performance and progress on health in countries—including the lack of functioning vital statistics systems, timely and reliable data, capacity of information systems, and a common and focused set of indicators. There was agreement on the need to help countries shift to universal registration of vital events (births, deaths and cause of death) as well as real-time building of maternal delivery and immunization systems using 21st century ICTs. There was expressed desire to not simply measure “contact” coverage but ensure measures include utilization or “effective coverage” and to develop a tool that enables countries to make continuous quality improvement of primary care services with focus on impact.

Better alignment and reduce burden on countries imposed by development partners: There was agreement on the need to rationalize existing measurement efforts arrive at a unified results measurement framework with a limited, core set of output and impact indicators (not just disease-specific measures). There was broad consensus that these indicators should focus on access to primary health care and universal health coverage; should include prevention, equity, quality, and coverage; build on existing initiatives on monitoring women and children’s health; and be tested initially with a limited number of countries. It was also agreed that each development partner agency identify measures that are critical for accountability to Parliaments for aid effectiveness *and* measures they can do without. This common framework would help achieve one sector-level monitoring and results framework for all partners and hold countries and their development partners mutually accountable for health sector performance.

Better linkage of measurement of results to decision-making: Comments included: Use leap-frogging technologies to move to “real-time” measurement systems; examine use of scorecards/dashboards as tools for bringing information to decision-makers simply and quickly; avoid stand-alone efforts on measurement: make sure measures are linked to joint programming and to decisions based on results and incentives for good performance; ensure country ownership of the measurement process. It was suggested that the results measurement framework be designed with key stakeholders in mind, especially Ministers of Finance. There also was broad agreement a unified measurement framework could help define the post-2015 development framework for health and set a standard for collaboration in other sectors.

Next steps: WHO DG Chan offered to chair a group of senior focal points from the participating global health agencies, to work with countries and develop a clear plan with a set of deliverables by April 2014. The plan will include a) developing a rationalized results measurement framework and b) sun-setting unnecessary existing measures. Each global health agency will nominate a focal point for the working group by 11 October 2013; smaller task groups may be set up as necessary on specific areas. There should be meaningful engagement with countries and civil society groups in development of the measures. The agency leaders' group will stay engaged in the process through periodic teleconference calls to help agencies to be held accountable for any lack of progress. The outcome of this work on better measurement for results, including a proposed tool for measurement of universal health coverage and primary health care, will be the focus of a high level meeting of Ministers of Health and Finance during the April 2014 WBG/IMF Spring Meetings in Washington, DC.

Annex 1 - List of Participants:

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Chris Elias, President, Global Development Program); European Commission (Klaus Rudischhauser, Deputy Director General, DG DEVCO); France (Anne-Marie Descotes, General Director for Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs); GAVI Alliance (Seth Berkley, Chief Executive Officer); Germany (Ursula Mueller, Director-General, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development); Global Fund (Mark Dybul, Executive Director); Japan (Keizo Takemi, Member of the Diet, House of Councillors); Norway (Tore Godal, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on Global Health); Rockefeller Foundation (Jeanette Vega, Managing Director); Sweden (Ann-Sofie Nilsson, Director-General for International Development Cooperation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs); U.S. Government (Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID; Eric Goosby, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, PEPFAR; Ambassador Leslie Rowe, Principal Deputy Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy, U.S. Office of Global Health Diplomacy); UNAIDS (Michel Sidibé, Executive Director); UNFPA (Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director); UNICEF (Geeta Rao Gupta, Deputy Executive Director); World Bank Group (Jim Yong Kim, President); WHO (Margaret Chan, Director-General)