CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The 39th session of the NGDO Coordination Group for Onchocerciasis Control was held at APOC/MDSC headquarters on 08-09 March 2012 at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. It was attended by the representatives of 8 member organizations (Charitable Society for Social Welfare, Christoffel-Blindenmission - CBM, Helen Keller International- HKI, Mectizan Donation Program- MDP, Mission to Save the Helpless - MITOSATH, Organisation pour la Prévention de la Cécité - OPC, Sightsavers, United Front Against Riverblindness - UFAR) and 3 associate members (International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness - IAPB, Merek & Co, Inc., and Liverpool Centre for Neglected Tropical Diseases - CNTD). World Vision, Angola attended as an observer. A representative from the World Bank as well as APOC Management and MDSC teams participated in the session. Representatives from IMA World Health, Lions Clubs International Foundation, Malaria Consortium, the Carter Center, Schistosomiasis Control Initiative, and US Fund for UNICEF were unable to attend the meeting. The full list of participants and provisional agenda are appended as annexes 1 and 2 respectively.

2. Following the review and follow up of the conclusions and recommendations of the 37th and 38th report of the NGDO Group session, the Group agreed that the reviews of the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting should be done at the subsequent meeting.

3. With regards to NGDO co-financing of identified research topic, the Group agreed that topics already identified at the 37th session were important. However, joint effort was required in order to address the matter and identified unanswered questions. A subcommittee was set up to collaborate with APOC to draft TORs as a basis for requesting funds from earlier identified partners including Sightsavers. The subcommittee members are representative of APOC, CBM, Sightsavers, Liverpool CNTD, MDP and Chair. The subcommittee is to be chaired by representative of Sightsavers.

4. The Group agreed that a subcommittee be established to address advocacy issues for the NGDO Group. It will be coordinated by Dr Yaobi Zhang and assisted by Ms Joni Lawrence, Dr Martin Kollmann, Mr Simon Bush, Dr Tony Ukety and Chair. The subcommittee will liaise with IAPB and the World Bank for more resources.

5. Regarding the NGDO overhead, the Group was informed that 7.5% of APOC direct cost to CDTI projects in 2011 will be made available for interested NGDOs in line with the recommendation of the 3rd session of the Joint Action Forum. Interested Members were asked to notify Dr Ukety for a joint request to APOC Management. In addition, the 12.5% overhead proposed by members during the 38th session will be forwarded to the next JAF for consideration.

6. Following the presentation of the report of the NGDO Group activities, it was noted that there is a need to strengthen the NOTFs. Therefore, the Group suggested to invite one or two NOTFs representatives to the NGDO Group sessions when necessary to present an update on their priorities and challenges as well as further interaction.
7. The Group acknowledged the appointment of Dr Naomi Awaca Uvon as the new National Coordinator for DRC and emphasized the need to provide her with all the necessary support.

8. The Group appreciated APOC’s effort in DRC by appointing a Technical Adviser, and requested that in view of the size of the country and high number of population at risk, there is the need to increase the number of Technical Advisers and arrange their appointment by region in order to improve performance needed to achieve elimination.

9. The Group thanked APOC Director on the update on APOC activities and noted that with the paradigm shift from control to elimination, high level advocacy is required for increased visibility and underlined that elimination efforts should be show cased by partners.

10. The Group congratulated Mr Ken Gustavsen on his new appointment within Merck and acknowledged his enormous contribution to strengthen partnership and wished him success in his endeavour. The Group looks forward to working with the new Director when appointed.

11. Merck kindly reminded partners of logistical matters related to Mectizan supply including: the need for timely return of shipment acknowledgment forms and the opportunity for better coordination between NGOs and country partners at time of shipment arrival in country.

12. The Group congratulated MDP for their 25th anniversary and look forward to participating in the various activities planned for this landmark. The Group also thanked Merck for the donation of over 420 million tablets in 2011 and for the 5-year US$ 1 million donation to the NGDO Group for the support of onchocerciasis control activities in Africa, and the follow up grant by MDP for the LF. In view of paradigm shift from control to elimination and needed LF elimination programme scale up, the Group reiterated their request for additional support.

13. Following the discussion on cross-border related issues and the threats it poses to elimination goal, the Group made the following recommendations:

   a. APOC to strengthen the cross-border Ministerial meetings in close collaboration with regional organizations.

   b. The need for harmonization of treatment across borders.

   c. Increased involvement of partners in advocacy and support of cross-border activities

14. The Group acknowledged the initiative by Sightsavers/UFAR for building up intra country partnership in DRC and look forward to the lessons that will be learnt from the collaboration. The Group also thanked APOC/CBM partnership in Angola and DRC and potential partnership of CNTD/Light for the World in Ethiopia. Partners were encouraged to explore these approaches elsewhere if required.

15. The Group discussed the funding challenges that HKI is facing in supporting three projects in Adamawa, Akwa Ibom and Borno States in Nigeria. Sightsavers and CBM expressed interests and willingness to discuss with HKI through NOTF for potential in-country partnerships to continue such supports in these States.
16. The Group thanked the UK Coalition Against NTDs for the high level and successful advocacy on the 30th January 2012 and their support for the London Declaration on NTDs. The opportunity to engage APOC and the Onchocerciasis NGDO Group with the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Malaria and NTDs is equally appreciated.

17. The Group emphasized the need for members and other partners to be fully engaged as countries develop strategies for NTD control, particularly as they finalize their NTD master plans.

18. The Group thanked Mr Simon Bush for presenting the Strategy Implementation Monitoring card (SIM Card) used for monitoring and measuring performance currently being used by Sightsavers. Members were encouraged to contact him on effective use of the strategy.

19. The Group appreciated the World Bank’s participation and their commitment to the APOC partnership. Members also noted the World Bank Board briefing about APOC and NTDs on 01 March 2012 and its positive outcome which includes:

   a. That at country level, the Bank will extend resources to help countries build strong community health services that deliver services to the poor including NTDs interventions.

   b. At the Regional level, to provide fiscal and fiduciary oversight to the ongoing Trust Fund through 2025 and coordinate with donors to extend the Trust Fund for all the 7 prevalent NTDs

20. The Group was pleased to learn of the proposed stakeholders meeting for Yemen Onchocerciasis programme which is to be held at the end of April 2012 in Cairo, Egypt and look forward to receive more details on it. CSSW persistence with treatment despite the political unrest and the country development of an Onchocerciasis elimination plan for Yemen was commended.

21. The Group thanked the Chair whose tenure ends in September 2012 for the leadership provided to the group in the past 2 years and nominated a new Vice Chair in the person of Dr Daniel Shungu, Executive Director United Front Against Riverblindness (UFAR). The new Vice chair will take over from Dr Frank Richards, The Carter Center, Director for River Blindness Program who is the current Vice chair when he assumes the post of Chair starting September 2012.

22. The 40th NGDO Coordination Group session will be held on the 3rd September alongside the 3rd session of NTD NGDO Network to be held on 04-06 September 2012, Sydney, Australia.
A. MEMBERS:

Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW)

1. Dr Isameldein Awad Elhussein Salah, NTD’s Programme Director, Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW), Western Ring Road P.O. Box 13254 New University Intersection Sana’a - R.O., Yemen, P. O. Box 13254, Sana’a-Yemen. Tel: +967 146 4390; Fax: +976 146 4419, E-mail: info@csswyemen.org; csswhl@yemen.net.ye; artol2001@yahoo.com.

Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM)

2. Dr Martin Kollmann, Program Director for Neglected Tropical Diseases, Christoffel Blinden Mission (CBM), Central Africa Regional Office, P.O. Box 58004-00200 City Square, Ring Road Parklands, Nairobi, Tel: + 254 20 3751 798, 3751 654, 3742 709, Fax: + 254 20 3740 305, Cell: + 264 733 524 436 Email: mkollmann@cbmi-nbo.org

3. Dr Irmela Erdmann, Christophe Blinden Mission, BP 13489, West Africa Regional Office Lome, Togo, and Tel: +228 908 332 76, Email: i.erdmann@gmx.net.

Helen Keller International

4. Dr Yaobi Zhang, Regional Coordinator, NTD, HKI Regional Office for Africa, P O Box 29.898, Dakar-Yoff, Senegal, Tel: +221 338 691 063, +221 338 207 477, E-mail: yzhang@hki.org.

Mectizan® Donation Program (MDP)

5. Dr. Adrian Hopkins, Director, Mectizan Donation Program (MDP), and 325 Swanton Way, Decatur, Georgia 30030 Tel: +1 404 371 1460 fax: +1 404 371 1138 E-mail: ahopkins@taskforce.org; adrianhopkins@aol.com.

6. Dr Kisito Ogoussan, Associate Director, Mectizan Donation Program, 325 Swanton Way, Decatur GA, 300 30, U.S.A, Tel: + 1 404 687 5633 Fax: + 1 404 371 1138 Email: kogoussan@taskforce.org.

Mission to Save the Helpless (MITOSATH)

Mrs. Francisca Olamiju, Executive Director, Mission to Save the Helpless (MITOSATH), 605 Hospital Place (opp. Green Valley Suites, GRA), P.O. Box 205, Jos, 930001 Plateau State, Nigeria Tel:+234 734 64 792, Fax:+234 73 464 794, Mob + 234 803 331 18085, E-mail mitosath@hotmail.com, olamijufo@mitosath.org

Annex 1. List of participants
Organisation pour la Prévention de la Cécité (OPC)

7. Dr Bernard Philippon, Chargé de mission, Organisation pour la Prévention de la Cécité (OPC), 17 Villa d’Alésia, 75014 Paris, France Tel: +33 140 449 404; +33 144 124 194 - Fax: +33 140 449 404, +33 144 122 301 E-mail: abphilippon@yahoo.fr; opc@opc.asso.fr.

Sightsavers International

8. Mr. Simon Bush, Director, African Alliances and Advocacy, Sightsavers International (SSI), 21 Nii Nortey Ababio Street, PO Box KIA 18190 Airport Residential Area, Accra, Ghana Tel: +233 217 74 210; Fax: +233 21 780 227; Mob: +233 244-322-885 E-mail: sbush@sightsavers.org.

United Front Against River Blindness

9. Dr. Daniel Shungu, Executive Director, United Front Against River blindness (UFAR), 13 Carnation Place Lawrenceville, New Jersey, 08648, USA. Tel: +1 609 771 3674, Mob: +1 609 954 3398, Fax: +1 609 530 1594 E-Mail: dishungu@oal.com; ufan@riverblindness.org.

B: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, Seeing is Believing (IAPB)

10. Mr. Peter Ackland, Director of Programmes, International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) LSHTM, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT, UK Tel: +44 (0)20-7927-2969; Fax: +44 (0)20-7958-8325; Email: packland@v202.org

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

11. Mrs. Joan Fahy, Programme Coordinator, Centre for Neglected Tropical Diseases, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Pembroke Place, Liverpool L3 5QA, United Kingdom Tel: +44-151-705-3145; Fax: +44-151-709-0354; E-mail: fahy@liverpool.ac.uk

Merck&Co, Inc.,

12. MS Christine Funk, Manager, Global Health partnerships, Office of Corporate Responsibility Merck&Co, Inc., Tel: +1 908 423 6450, Fax: +1 098 735 1839 Email: Christine.funk@merck.com

C. WORLD BANK

13. Dr Andy Tembo, Oncho Team Member, African Region Human Development Department, The World Bank, 1818 H Street, NW, Washington DC 20433, USA – Tel: +1.202- 458-4879 – Fax: +1.202-4738216, Email: atembon@worldbank.org
D. OBSERVERS

World Vision, Angola

14. MS Heather Jordan, Health Director, World Vision, Rua Dr. Aires de Menezes N. 24, CP 5687 Maianga, Luanda, Angola, Tel: + 244 931820138, Email: heatherleila3@gmail.com

E. SECRETARIAT

WHO/APOC

15. Dr. Lusamba Paul, Director/APOC, P.O. Box 549, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Tel: +226 50 34 29 53, Fax: +226 50 34 28 75 - E-mail: lusambap@oncho.afro.who.int.

16. Dr. Laurent Yaméogo, COORD/APOC, P.O. Box 549, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Tel: +226 50 34 29 53, Fax: +226 50 34 28 75 - E-mail: yameogol@oncho.afro.who.int.

17. Dr. Noma Mounkaila, CEV/APOC P.O Box 549. Ouagadougou 01, Burkina Faso, Tel: + 226 503 429 53, Fax: + 226 50 34 28 75, Mobile: 00 226-7650 9788; E-mail: nomam@oncho.agfor.who.int

18. Dr Grace Fobi, P.O Box 549. Ouagadougou 01, Burkina Faso, Tel: + 226 503 429 53, Fax: + 226 50 34 28 75, Mobile: 00 226-7650 9788; E-mail: fobig@oncho.afro.who.int

WHO/HQ

19. Dr Ukety Tony, Responsible Officer, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland, Tel: + 41 22 791 1450, Fax: + 41 22 791 4772, E-mail: uketyt@who.int

20. MS Ochienghs Juliet, Administrative Officer, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland, Tel: 41 22 791 2580, Fax: 41 22 791 4772, E-mail ochienghsj@who.int

WHO/MDSC

21. Prof. Evariste MUTABARUKA, Director a.i., Multi Diseases Surveillance Center (MDCS), Avenue Naba Zombré N° 1473, 01 B.P. 549, Ouagadougou 01, Burkina Faso - Tel: +226 50 34 38 18- Fax: +226 50 34 28 75 – Email : mutabarukae@oncho.afro.who.int
1. Opening session

2. Review and follow-up of the main conclusions and recommendations of the 37th & 38th Sessions of the NGDO Coordination Group for Onchocerciasis Control.

3. Report of the NGDO Coordination Group for Onchocerciasis Control activities.

4. Update on APOC operations since March 2011.

5. Briefing from MDP & Merck on Mectizan procurement.

6. Matters arising from JAF17 in Kuwait.
   a. Presentation of the NGDO Coordination Group for Onchocerciasis Control to JAF17; and
   b. Follow-up of some key JAF17 documents.

7. Cross border collaboration in APOC and former OCP countries.

8. Updates on "in country partnerships" to support CDTI projects lacking NGDO partner.
   a. SIM Card: Monitoring and Measuring Performance;
   b. Updates on Sightsavers-UFAR partnership in the DRC;
   c. Updates on CNTD - Light for the World partnership in Ethiopia; and
   d. Updates on CBM-APOC partnership in Angola and DRC.

9. Updates on other specific country activities and related issues (APOC, former OCP, OEPA countries and Yemen).

10. Resource mobilization and funding opportunities.

11. Other matters:
   a. NGDO Reporting Forms (Treatment and Cost);
   b. NGDO overhead; and
   c. NGDO early warning system in case of financial challenges.

12. Vice-Chair of the NGDO Group.


14. Date and place of the next meeting.

15. Closure of the meeting.