Stakeholder Consultation: “Accountability for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health post-2015”

16 – 17 November 2015, Geneva
Salle II, International Labour Organization (ILO)

The Commission on Information and Accountability supporting the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health (2010-2015) changed the landscape on accountability at the global and country levels. Work over the past five years in response to the Commission’s 10 recommendations brought independent and mutual accountability to the forefront of the agenda for women’s and children’s health. Through better information, better tracking of resources and better oversight, we have a better understanding of how investments are made and the results of those investments.

The updated Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (2016-2030), launched in September 2015 at the United Nations General Assembly, envisages a unified means of ensuring continued independent and harmonized reporting, brought forward by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH). Building on successes under the existing accountability framework, as well as lessons learned by the independent Expert Review Group (iERG), this consultation aims to identify mechanisms for improving overall coherence, cost-effectiveness and impact.

We are pleased to welcome original Commissioners, members of the iERG and a diverse group of stakeholders to celebrate the achievements under the Commission’s leadership and set the foundations for the next accountability framework. The meeting will convene approximately 100 senior representatives from governments and parliaments, civil society, international organizations and the private sector for in-depth discussions on the objectives, structure and imperatives of accountability under the new Global Strategy.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

1. Highlight lessons from the 2010-2015 accountability framework and its contributions to advancing the agenda for women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health;
2. Consider how the 2015 iERG recommendations apply to the proposed accountability framework for the updated Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health;
3. Present the structure of the accountability mechanism for the Global Strategy and discuss strategies to operationalize it, touching on independence, financing, stakeholder participation, leadership roles, and advocacy;
4. Elicit recommendations from stakeholders and commitment to drive accountability for the Global Strategy.
DAY ONE

8:30 Registration

Lead Moderator: Dr Jane Thomason, CEO, AbtJTA

1 – Welcome and Opening
9:00 am   Plenary Session

- **VIDEO**: Message from UN Deputy Secretary General H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson
- **Welcome and remarks** – Dr Margaret Chan (Director-General, WHO)
- **Remarks** – Rosemary McCarney (Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Canada)
- **Remarks** – Prof Keizo Takemi (MP Japan, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Pop. and Dev.)
- **Recognizing the iERG**
  - Lessons from the iERG – Joy Phumaphi (co-chair, iERG)
  - **VIDEO**: iERG members’ reflections on accountability
  - Dr Chan & Prof Takemi recognize the iERG

2 – Accountability for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health in the SDG era
10:00 am   Plenary Session

**Objective**: Following the launch of the Global Strategy alongside the SDGs in September 2015, this session will provide an update on the political context, positioning and future directions for the implementation of the Strategy and its accountability framework.

**Moderator**: Dr Richard Horton (co-chair, iERG)

- **Taking forward accountability from the MDGs to the SDGs** – Nana Kuo (EWEC)
- **The Global Strategy & accountability for resources, results and rights** – Dr Flavia Bustreo (WHO)
- **The measurement framework for the new Global Strategy** – Dr Ties Boerma (WHO)
- **The future: Improving accountability for the health of women, children, and adolescents** – Robin Gorna (PMNCH)
- **Lessons on translating global recommendations to national plans** – HE Mrs Toyin Saraki (Wellbeing Foundation) and Dr Carmen Barroso (iERG)
- **Q&A with the audience**

11 am – Coffee break

3 – Accountability in countries: Building blocks of national accountability
11:30 am   Panel discussion

**Objective**: This session will focus on key building blocks for national accountability and how they can be optimized through multi-stakeholder action.

**Moderator**: Thabitha Khumalo (MP Zimbabwe)

- **Government transparency**: transparency, scorecards and resource tracking for improved quality of care – Dan Osei (MOH Ghana)
- **Budget advocacy**: civil society budget advocacy driving increased and improved allocations – Dr Aminu Magashi Garba (Africa Health Budget Advocacy Network)
- **Media and citizens hearings**: the role of the press, media organizations and citizens in pushing forward the accountability agenda – Kenneth Simbaya
- **Parliamentarian action**: parliamentary leadership and action for legislative reform – Pia Locatelli (MP Italy)
- **Q&A with audience**
4 – Reflections on moving ahead with the unified accountability framework for the Global Strategy
2:00 pm  Panel discussion

**Objective:** This session will introduce current thinking on the next phase of accountability for the Global Strategy and solicit perspectives from representatives of stakeholder groups developing the new framework and driving accountability for women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health.

**Moderator:** Martin Chungong (Inter-Parliamentary Union)

- **Opportunities and challenges for the global accountability framework** – Rosemary McCarney (Ambassador of Canada)
  
- **Panel:**
  - Betsy McCallon (White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood)
  - Gary Cohen (Becton Dickinson)
  - Frances Ganges (International Confederation of Midwives)
  - Dr Daniel Tobón García (Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights)
  - Andrew Jack (Financial Times)

- **Modalities of the Independent Accountability Panel (IAP)** – Stefan Germann (World Vision International)

- **Q&A with the audience**

5 – Driving accountability for the Global Strategy
3:30 pm  Working Group sessions

**Objective:** This session will articulate recommendations to implement the unified global accountability framework for the updated Global Strategy and how it fits into the broader health sector under the monitor and review process for the SDGs. Working groups will be organized around the themes of Accountability for Results, Resources, and Rights and will consider priorities for action under the “Monitor, Review, Act” framework at global, regional and country levels, including in conflict-affected and humanitarian settings, and addressing the needs of adolescents and young people. The need for independence will be a key theme throughout.

1. **RESULTS:** How to simplify country reporting and reduce duplication? How to strengthen multi-stakeholder participation in the health sector review? What strategies and tools are most effective for impacting positive change at the country level? How to address equity and ensure action stems from the IAP report at global and country levels?

2. **RESOURCES:** How to strengthen resource-tracking for domestic and international spending on health and more specifically SRMNCAH? How to track commitments? What are effective strategies to mobilize additional investment? How to engage in broader health financing processes? How to improve efficiencies in health spending for SRMNCAH?

3. **RIGHTS:** How can the new mechanism (IAP) ensure attention is given to human rights issues, including outside the health sector? How can we strengthen national capacity to undertake human rights analysis? What role can regional/global level actors play in this regard? What can partners do to support law and policy reform processes to improve the right to health for women, children and adolescents?
6 – Overview of Day 1
9 am Plenary session

Objective: Provide reflections and overview of Day 1 to guide discussions for Day 2.

Moderator: Dr Jane Thomason, CEO, AbtJTA

7 – Looking Forward I: Results
9:15 am Panel discussion

Objective: This session will present recommendations and commitments from the previous day’s working group on results for a panel to react to, with the aim of pushing forward recommendations.

Moderators: Prof Miriam Were (iERG) and Dr Anthony Costello (WHO)
- Report back from Working Group – designated rapporteur
- Panel discussion
  o Nina Schwalbe (UNICEF)
  o Dr Faruk Ahmed Bhuinya (MOH Bangladesh)
  o Lola Dare (CHESTRAD)
  o Beth Schlachter (FP2020)
- Audience discussion

8 – Looking Forward II: Resources
10:15 am Panel discussion

Objective: This session will present recommendations and commitments from the previous day’s working group on resources for a panel to react to, with the aim of pushing forward recommendations.

Moderators: Julian Schweitzer (R4D) and Dr Agnès Soucat (WHO)
- Report back from Working Group – designated rapporteur
- Panel discussion
  o Nicole Klingens (World Bank)
  o Dr Tessa Edejer (WHO)
  o Amy Boldosser-Boesch (Family Care International)
- Audience discussion

11:15 am – Coffee break

9 – Looking Forward III: Rights
11:45 pm Panel discussion

Objective: This session will present recommendations and commitments from the previous day’s working group on rights for a panel to react to, with the aim of pushing forward recommendations.

Moderators: Dr Tarek Meguid (iERG) and Robin Gorna (PMNCH)
- Report back from Working Group – designated rapporteur
- Panel discussion
  o Dr Judith Bueno de Mesquita (Human Rights Centre, University of Essex)
- Imma Guerras (OHCHR)
- Tikhala Itaye (AfriYAN)

- Audience discussion

12:45 pm – Lunch

10 – Accountability: Cross-cutting issues
2 pm Plenary Session

Objective: This panel will put accountability in a broader context and address the cross-cutting issues that are newly emphasized in the updated Global Strategy and will affect how – and how well – accountability will be enacted.

Moderator: Kathleen Ferrier (iERG)
- Adolescents taking forward the accountability agenda – Gogontlejang Phaladi (Pillar of Hope Project)
- Accountability in fragile states – Dr Soraya Dalil (Ambassador of Afghanistan)
- Accountability in humanitarian sessions – HRH Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan
- Q&A with audience

11 – Conclusions, Wrap-up and Next Steps
3 pm Plenary session

Objective: This session will synthesize the discussions and tie together key recommendations for implementing the accountability framework of the Global Strategy.

Moderators: Dr Núria Casamitjana Badia (ISGlobal) and Dr Marie-Paule Kieny (WHO)
- Presentation of meeting outcomes – Dr Julian Schweitzer (R4D)
- Reflections & commitments – Dr Flavia Bustreo (WHO)
- Next steps – Robin Gorna (PMNCH)

12 – Vote of thanks and close
3:30 pm

Remarks: Dr Marleen Temmerman (WHO)