

## IAPB Executive Committee

### 15<sup>th</sup> September 2013 – Teleconference

**Time -** 09:00-10:30

**Venue -** The Grand, Pavilion Room - Brighton

**Attending -** Chair: Bob McMullan

Member(s): Johannes Trimmel; Adrian Poffley; Kathy Spahn; Abdulaziz AlRahji; Serge Resnikoff

In attendance: Peter Ackland; Alessandro Di Capua

## Minutes

### 1. Minutes of the last meeting

Approved.

### 2. Membership and Governance Review

The Committee discussed this particular item on the Board agenda and ways to ensure the board was wholly behind the review. It was highlighted the need to avoid mistakes of previous exercises which had failed to win the trust of the board.

The Committee agreed that current circumstances, including a new strategy, new leadership and a commitment to transparency and broad consultation, provided however a promising starting point, and were optimistic about securing buy-in from the board.

### 3. WHO personnel changes

The changes in the WHO Prevention of Blindness and Deafness (PBD) unit were discussed: the move of Onchocerciasis and Trachoma to the NTD department and the departure of N. Banatvala from the team left only two medical officers with a focus on blindness, S. Mariotti and I. Kocur. The new acting coordinator, S. Mendis, was unlikely to provide significant input to the team.

The Committee recognised the need to ensure that blindness and vision impairment did not fall behind as a priority within the NCD cluster.

**ACTION:** B. McMullan, S. Resnikoff and P. Ackland to liaise to organise a meeting with Dr. Oleg Chestnov, Assistant Director General of the NCD and Mental Health cluster at WHO.

The Committee also discussed in detail the board paper 5.1 on WHO support. P. Ackland explained that, in light of previous decision of the board, the focus was on supporting activities rather than posts at WHO. He explained that, following a meeting with the PBD team, a number of areas had been identified where IAPB and NGOs could contribute towards the implementation of the new Action Plan. He noted that many of these areas could be funded by existing pots (i.e. VISION 2020 workshops) or thanks to other funders (i.e. QEDJT), therefore only a minimal amount was needed to support the WHO essential medicines list and travel for I. Kocur (the one person within WHO who would be responsible for the implementation of the Action Plan).

Given the limited outstanding amount required, the Committee suggested this could be funded through the IAPB own budget, rather than via individual NGOs if none was forthcoming. All agreed.

The Committee agreed that the focus of support on activities and implementation of the new Action Plan was a positive step, however it noted that there were risks of a perception of an overall reduction in support arising and agreed that this must be managed with clear communication of the value the partnership had in order to achieve our common objectives of universal eye health.

#### **4. World Bank personnel changes**

A. Poffley noted that many changes were under way at the World Bank since the new President had taken office. In particular, Caroline Anstey, previously Managing Director and contact for IAPB within the Bank, had now moved on.

The need to establishing new points of contacts at the Bank was discussed, but in particular the need to develop clear asks before that. All agreed that, at least in part, the 'asks' ought to be shaped by the World Bank's own agenda on health, as experience of previous advocacy efforts had taught us that the Bank would only engage following Member States' requests, or to pursue some key goals of its own. All agreed that the first step would then be to understand what was going to be on the Bank's strategy for health once the internal changes had taken place.

**ACTION:** A. Poffley and K. Spahn to liaise on this and report back at next Executive Committee meeting.

#### **5. 10GA location**

K. Naidoo, Regional Chair for Africa, joined the meeting for this agenda item only. He reported on the work done to guide the board in choosing the host location between Durban and Cape Town, including the following:

- Financially the difference between the two venues approached was negligible (with Durban coming slightly cheaper);
- Even though crime in South Africa was still an issue, it appeared not to be a decisive factor in the choice of host city given that since the World Cup Durban had kept some of the preventive measures implemented then and its crime statistics had improved considerably;

- In Durban we could expect better local support and political connectivity, given that IAPB Africa and the Brien Holden Vision Institute were based there.

Following discussion and given the above, the Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the board the choice of Durban as the next 10GA location.

#### **6. Review of Board agenda and any other issues arising from it**

The remaining of the board agenda was discussed and in particular the issue of the proposed terms of reference for the Action Plan Work Group.

In particular the following issues were raised:

- Need to ensure there was no overlap of competencies across different bodies;
- The 5 areas included in the ToR as main objectives for the work group were quite broad and disparate and required a very different range of skills.

All agreed that the Action Plan was the key priority for our work going forward and that, in case it turned out not to be possible to identify a clear set of terms the whole board could agree on, a core group of individuals should be identified to drive this forward as an interim group so not to lose precious time.

It was also noted that the issue was going to be discussed at the Advocacy & PR Committee too prior to go to the board.

#### **7. AOB**

B. McMullan highlighted the importance of World Sight Day as a platform for advocacy and to advance our cause. He volunteered to get engaged with the Secretariat to explore ways to increase its global visibility and impact (including ensuring the actual date was appropriate in all regional and cultural contexts) and to report back to the Committee in due course.