

Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee Meeting

8 November 2017

Teleconference

1. Declarations of Interest

- 1.1 Finding a quorum of members present, the meeting commenced at 15.33 Geneva time on 8 November 2017. Richard Sezibera, Programme and Policy Committee (PPC) Chair, chaired the meeting.
- 1.2 Standing declarations of interest were tabled to the Committee (Doc 01 in the Committee pack).

2. Nigeria – Proposed Principles of Engagement

- 2.1 Seth Berkley, CEO, introduced this item, recalling that at the PPC meeting on 26-27 October 2017 the PPC had agreed on a recommendation to submit to the Board at its meeting in November but had asked to have a further discussion on the proposed principles of engagement with Nigeria in advance of the Board meeting.
- 2.2 He also recalled that the PPC had agreed that the Board would have a discussion in closed session on other parameters that would enable the Secretariat to work with Alliance partners and other stakeholders to bring back a fully developed transition plan to the PPC in May and subsequently the Board for approval in June 2018. Such parameters would include information on the proposed timelines for the transition plan as well as the financial parameters.

Discussion

- PPC members agreed that the proposed principles were not intended to be too detailed but to remain quite broad to enable the Secretariat to work with Alliance Partners on a framework to guide discussions with the Governance of Nigeria towards the development of a transition plan.
- PPC members noted that it would be important for the Board to record that what is being proposed for Nigeria is exceptional, taking into account also that the PPC recommendation to the Board already foresees that certain policy flexibilities could be considered as part of the transition plan.
- PPC members noted that it is at that time that indicators for monitoring the implementation of the plan would also be presented and that it would be important

to ensure that the measurement criteria put in place incentivise the Government of Nigeria appropriately and were such that they would enable course correction along the way as and when appropriate.

- PPC members agreed that the proposed principles could perhaps be sharpened in some instances to better guide the negotiation discussions.
- PPC members noted the importance of ensuring that the transition plan is developed in the context of the overall national budget for health and that the importance of long-term planning and accountability should be emphasised.
- During the discussion PPC members discussed some changes to the wording of the principles as outlined below:
- **Demonstrated commitment from the government in the form of:**
 - *Full reimbursement of the balance of funds already deemed to have been misused, and a firm reimbursement plan for any additional funds found to be misused*
 - *Increased year-on-year health sector and immunisation budgetary commitments and a commitment to sustain the enhanced programme once Gavi support ends*
 - *Continued, timely co-financing of any newly introduced and of already introduced vaccines **and monitoring the financial sustainability of transitional vaccines***
- **A realistic transition plan that will focus on increasing sustainable coverage & equity through:**
 - *A programmatic focus on the poorest and most inequitable areas **and in particular in areas with lowest coverage***
 - ***Reaffirming that An introduction of new vaccines should only be envisaged if the country is able based on the country's ability** to successfully introduce and sustain increased coverage, including meeting co-financing requirements and the ability to fully finance the vaccine ~~within four years of introduction~~ **and the coverage rates for other vaccines are satisfactory.** This would ensure that budgets for every vaccine that is introduced are built in and sustained*
 - *~~A commensurate increase in Targeted technical country assistance and health system strengthening support at national and in lower performing states and LGAs~~*
 - *~~A clear process for the management of any cash support for Nigeria that meets fiduciary concerns while building the financial management capacity of relevant national and sub-national institutions~~*

- ~~— Leveraging additional Gavi Alliance partner investments and financial instruments, as appropriate~~ *Engagement within broader health sector reforms and consideration of other external financing instruments to the health sector*
- *Ensure adequate monitoring, evaluation and implementation research to allow quick evaluations and course corrections*
- *Considerations of how to effectively transition polio eradication resource, as appropriate, to meet immunisation and broader health needs*
- **A commitment to governance and accountability in the form of:**
 - *Financial milestones related to an annual increase in government expenditure on vaccines and immunisation programmes*
 - *Programmatic milestones that give an indication of progress on coverage and equity*
 - *Clear accountabilities that recognise that failure to meet financial commitments will render Gavi support to Nigeria's Transition Plan null and void*
- It was noted that the Secretariat would, based on the discussions at this meeting, include the proposed guidelines in the paper for the board discussion in November 2017.

3. Any other business

- Before concluding the meeting PPC members agreed that it would be useful for the dates for the planned high-level visit to Nigeria to be confirmed as soon as possible to enable appropriate planning by all those involved.
- After determining there was no further business, the meeting was brought to a close.

Mrs Joanne Goetz
Secretary to the Meeting

Attachment A

Participants

Committee Members

- Richard Sezibera, Chair
- Dure Samin Akram
- Lindsey Dietschi
- Abdul Wali Ghayur
- Rama Lakshminarayanan
- Jason Lane
- Lene Lothe
- Susan McKinney
- Violaine Mitchell
- Robin Nandy
- Jean-Marie Okwo-Bele
- Jean-François Pactet
- Seth Berkley, Chief Executive Officer
- Alejandro Cravioto

Regrets

- Edna Yolani Batres
- Ummy Ally Mwalimu
- Syed Monjurul Islam
- Adar Poonawalla
- Helen Rees

Gavi Secretariat

- Pascal Bijleveld
- Mirjam Clados
- Santiago Cornejo
- Alex de Jonquières
- Joanne Goetz
- Hind Khatib-Othman
- Karan Sagar