

Executive Committee Meeting – Minutes

Monday, 2 September 2019, 9:30 - 10:30 am, Skype meeting

Participants

Executive Committee members: Alicia Herbert (DFID/UK - EXCOM Vice-chair), Yasmine Sherif (ECW Director), Ina von Frantzius (BMZ/Germany), Annica Floren on behalf of Aida Liha Matejcek), Camilla Helgø Fossberg (NORAD/Norway), Maria Agnese Giordano (Global Education Cluster), Robert Jenkins (UNICEF), Anna Rosendahl (SIDA/Sweden), Annina Mattsson (Dubai Cares), Gertrud Nørbjerg Kümmel Birk (Denmark), Joseph Nhan-O'Reilly (Save the Children), Nina Papadopoulos (USAID), Eline Ruisendaal (The Netherlands), Pdraig Power (GPE), Amelia Whitworth on behalf of Kathleen Spencer Chapman (Plan International), Kate Moriarty on behalf of Dean Brooks (INEE), Becky Telford on behalf of Mamadou Dian Balde (UNHCR)

Accompanying officials: Rudolf Huber (BMZ/Germany), Randi Gramshaug (Norad/Norway), (UNICEF), Anushya Devendra (DFID/UK), Emma Gremlay (DFID/UK), Anthony Nolan (Global Education Cluster Coordinator), Farah Williamson (Plan International Canada), Pia Engstrand (SIDA/Sweden), Erling Hess Johnsen (Norad/Norway), Ashley Henderson (USAID), Nicole Gaertner (US State Department), Lisa Bender (UNICEF), Monique Franssen (Dutch Postcode Lotterie)

ECW Secretariat: Nagi Messiha, Zeinab Adam, Nasser Faqih, Michael Corlin, Christian Stoff, Kent Page, Maarten Barends, Marlin Elisson, Veronique Mistyckv, Li Peng, Manan Kotak, Maurits Wilko Spoelder

Summary of the outcomes of the meeting

1. Welcome

- The Chair opened the meeting and introduced four agenda items,
 - 1) ECW High-Level Steering Group meeting
 - 2) UNGA High-Level event
 - 3) Operational Manual revision
 - 4) Safeguarding and Transparency: Reporting on Fraud (added as the 4th agenda item)

2. HLSG meeting during UNGA week

- The ECW Director briefed the EXCOM on the HLSG Agenda: The Director will provide a global update on ECW's Annual report 2018, followed by presentations from Ministers of Education from crisis-affected countries on progress with respect to ECW investments. Ms. Sigrid Kaag, the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands will open the discussion on the Grand Bargain on ECW's investments. Filippo Grandi, the UN high Commissioner for Refugees will then provide a briefing on the upcoming Global Refugee Forum, followed by discussion.

- During the Q&A session, the ECW Secretariat provided further clarification on interventions during the meeting and how the plenary discussion will be orchestrated as follows: 1) all HLSG members will be seated around a single table and get the time to make interventions; 2) the HLSG Chair will invite HLSG members to respond immediately after each session and the section “Plenary discussion: Progress in ECW’s Investments: the Grand Bargain” has more space for response and discussion; 3) During the plenary session, based on the findings presented from the Annual Report 2018, participants will discuss ECW’s results at global, regional and national levels, including a reflection on ECW’s contributions to the Grand Bargain. Recommendations are welcome on how ECW contributions to the Grand Bargain could be strengthened (in response to written comment from EXCOM).
- On representation at HLSG, the ECW Secretariat explained that HLSG representatives are strategic partners and ECW expects high level presence at HLSG. All representatives are welcome to take active participation at the meeting, as a practice which has been maintained.
- On Annual Report, the ECW Secretariat underlined that consultations were made on this report and the Secretariat will make extra efforts next time in soliciting feedbacks.

2. UNGA High-Level event

- Nasser Faqih gave a presentation updating progress on the preparation of the UNGA High Level event, explaining the program and the format which are based on three main components: pledge moment for governments and private sectors, highlighting ECW’s results and achievements and concluding with panel discussions. He emphasized the importance that donors who want to make pledge, should communicate in advance to ECW Secretariat to ensure the needed arrangements and approach are in place. This will be a joint event with IFFED and one and a half hours is allocated for ECW part.
- During the Q&A session, the ECW Secretariat provided further clarification on time, flow and logistical arrangement as follows: 1) ECW secretariat is working with Global Citizen, and seeking expertise and qualified facilitator to help maintain the time and flow to ensure event go smoothly, keep the time and accommodate all the requests; 2) the Secretariat will engage dialogues with individual donors to make needed arrangement.
- Comments made by EXCOM on donor pledges should refer to theme of the event, the “Leaving on one behind”.

ACTION and DECISION

The Chair concluded the discussion noting the importance for EXCOM to get back to ECW Secretariat regarding expected pledges from their countries and foundation as well as high-level participation.

The ECW team will support pledging donors with information and walk through arrangements and logistics.

The chair advised ECW to review the time allocation under the run of show as it looks compacted and ECW may have to consider cutting back on some activities to finish on time.

3. Operational manual revision update

- Michael Corlin briefed the EXCOM on the status of the Operational Manual revision, giving an update on the progress and clarifying next steps. Here is the summary of the key points that were mentioned.

- A solid draft of the Operational Manual has been prepared by Cambridge Education and shared with the Task Team for comments. Several members of the Task Team requested more time be granted to ensure wider consultation. The ECW Secretariat agreed to the proposed extension of time. The comments from the Task Team will be collected on 20th September, an updated draft will be produced by Cambridge Education. The draft will be shared with Task Team for their advice and inputs before it is shared with the ECW Director, who will then share with EXCOM for endorsement. After EXCOM have had the opportunity to review and comment, the final version will be sent by e-mail to the HLSG for approval.
- During the Q&A session, the ECW Secretariat provided further clarification that the Operating Manual will provide more clarity on the membership and roles of the EXCOM and the HLSG.

4. Safeguarding and Transparency: reporting on fraud

- The ECW Secretariat asked the EXCOM donors whether they would like the Secretariat to continue to report on allegations as they come in, or whether they would like to consolidate these and report once a monthly or bi-monthly or weekly reports.

ACTION and DECISION

EXCOM will send their comments by 6 September on how to proceed.

5. AOB and Close

- On HLSG meeting on 24 September, interventions by HLSG members must be kept short to keep to the allotted meeting time. The capacity of the meeting venue is limited thus each HLSG member could only be accompanied by one additional official. Request EXCOM members' help in confirming the participation of their principals ASAP.
- On UNGA High Level event, it is important for the donor states to encourage and call on other donors to pledge in the few weeks before the event, and to confirm high-level participation. If a member will be making a pledge, this should be communicated to ECW in advance to ensure that needed arrangements and approach are in place.
- The latest version of Standard Contribution Agreement (SCA) will be shared after this meeting for the last round review, and comments should be sent back by Sept 9th to ensure SCA revision process is finalized soonest.
