



HLSG Paper 5: Permanent hosting review

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to recommend developing Terms of Reference by April for an independent review process to determine permanent ECW hosting arrangements.

For discussion and decision

Summary

- The HLSG previously agreed that while UNICEF would host ECW in the interim, a review and decision needed to be taken at a later date on long-term hosting.
- There was broad agreement at the ECW Senior Officials Group meeting (January 2017) to propose development of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the permanent hosting review in time for the HLSG April meeting. The TOR would include detail on the process and criteria for the review, which should be conducted independently and is likely to require external consultant support. The current intention is for the review process to conclude with a recommendation for HLSG by Autumn 2017.
- The UK has offered to work with the Secretariat to support the review, including funding and procurement of external support.

For decision: *The High-Level Steering Group:*

1. ***Tasks the Director, Education Cannot Wait and Executive Committee to develop a Terms of Reference for an Independent Review of ECW Hosting and to submit the TOR for agreement by the HLSG at its April meeting. The TOR should include: criteria against which the independent review will be conducted, review methodology and process, and the expected skill set and experience of reviewer/review team. The TOR should recommend a timeframe for the review, which is currently anticipated to conclude by Autumn 2017.***

Background

Before its launch in May 2016, partners agreed that UNICEF would act as host of ECW until a permanent host was identified. While hosting was considered by the Overseas Development Institute as part of their work to develop ECW's broad design, it was determined that a process to identify a permanent host would need to be agreed by the High-Level Steering Group.

To mitigate the risk of uncertainty over ECW's permanent hosting arrangements, the recommended (for decision) operational framework for ECW has been developed with a view to being agile, adaptable and flexible, thereby creating the potential for other hosting arrangements, if agreed by the HLSG. Nevertheless, the permanent hosting of ECW is likely to influence the fund's long-term strategy, operations and

communications. Any move of current location would entail significant preparatory work and likely take some time to implement. For these reasons, the Senior Officials Group broadly agreed to propose moving ahead with the development of TOR for the Review, in time for the April HLSG, with the intention of the review being completed by Autumn 2017.