

MeTA Management Board (MMB) Meeting 9

24 November 2009

Attended by: Saul Walker, Andreas Seiter, Sophia Tickell, Clare Innes, Matthew Steven, Brian Elliott, Wilbert Bannenberg (by phone), Elodie Brandamir, Shampa Nath, Deepthi Wickremasinghe

Summary:

1. Matters arising

ATM Index was discussed. In the longer term there might be an opportunity for MeTA to work with the Index.

A link to the ATM Index will be created from the MeTA website and it was suggested that it could form the basis of an article for a future newsletter.

2. Review of project implementation against timeline and 3. country and thematic update

Discussion focused on the challenges and Secretariat recommendations in the Quarterly report (July – September 2009) and how these are being addressed.

- *The Secretariat will make a recommendation for a data repository and present a discussion paper to the MMB.*
- *The Secretariat will provide the MMB with an updated country disclosure calendar.*
- *A summary of the key challenges will be included in future quarterly reports.*
- *An online platform for the MMB share calendar and meeting information is being created.*
- *The data disclosure tool will be given prominence on the website and country contacts will be added to the country pages.*

4. Zambia national Workplan

The MMB gave the workplan conditional approval with staggered disbursements and a follow-up visit from the International Secretariat to support the project coordinator, who has only recently been appointed, and help with sequencing activities in the workplan and prioritising information and disclosure activities.

5. Peru CSO Concept notes & Zambia CSO Workplan

The Peru civil society stakeholders will develop their capacity building plan on a needs basis. The workplan is expected by 15 December 2009. A fund holder has been proposed and the MOU is being sent to them.

The Zambia civil society workplan was approved and the MMB would like to receive feedback from Carolyn Green, who is undertaking a workshop to strengthen CSO capacity.

6. Current and future progress towards data disclosure

Data disclosure is now underway in each of the countries and a table showing each country's progress was considered useful. A manual to accompany the data disclosure toolbox is currently being written. Baseline surveys are also expected to provide useful data.

- *Once written, the data disclosure manual will be added to the MeTA website.*

7. Evaluation

The TOR for the evaluation was considered strong by DFID's Evaluation Department and will be contracted to HLSP. Planning for the evaluation will begin in December and the work will begin in January 2010. The MMB was assured that the evaluation team leader would not have worked on MeTA in the past. It was suggested that the evaluation look back to December 2006 and interview one or two people involved then, because the design phase has influenced what is happening now and that DFID's contribution be assessed as well as that of WHO and World Bank. Subject to amendments the TOR was approved by the MMB.

8. Communication strategy

The communication plans have been integrated into the Secretariat's priorities and milestones and a publications list has been developed itemising work for the rest of the pilot phase. The first draft of a standard presentation about MeTA will be circulated to the MMB in w/b 30 November. Some recommendations for the website were made.

- *A separate meeting will be arranged between DFID and the communication team to discuss web development.*

9. Defining the role of international pharma in MeTA

There was a discussion about how to involve international pharma in MeTA at an international and country level. It was proposed that work around ethical codes of conduct and standardised national drug regulatory authorities might be a way pharma could get involved with MeTA at a country level and offering pharma concrete ideas about what it would be useful for them to disclose might help to generate a discussion and negotiation.

It was suggested that discussions about disclosure be held initially with two or three companies and that these be followed up with an articulation of what MeTA is and where it is going, asking them to make some commitment to disclosing data.

Ethical codes and promotion were seen as the focus getting generics into MeTA.

- *The private sector strategy will be finalised ahead of the evaluation.*

10. Post MeTA-pilot option

There was a discussion around the core functions and focus for MeTA, possible financing mechanisms and the process by which a future International Secretariat would be identified.

- *DFID will put together timelines for the best and worst case scenario for setting up the post-pilot phase of MeTA.*
- *A wind-down timeline will be worked out in case the evaluation is not favourable.*

11. Events

International meeting: A five-day programme of meetings is being planned and a skeletal agenda will be circulated soon.

Country sharing meeting: There has been a good response to this from the countries and all the logistics have been done. DFID agreed to participate and present on the evaluation and post-pilot planning.

Pharma policy course: The coordination for this event is going well. It will be followed by two days training in multi-stakeholder processes.

IAG meeting: The governance review, the TOR for the evaluation and a research methodology will be discussed. A report of the Country sharing meeting will be shared.

12. Date of next meeting

The date of the next MMB meeting is to be arranged.