

SUN Movement Executive Committee Call

13 January, 15:00 – 16:30 CET, Zoom

Summary note

Participation

Participants: Connell Foley & Gladys Mugambi (Co-Chairs), Abigail Perry, Andrew Kirkwood, Augustin Flory, Azucena Dayanghirang, Caroline Wilkinson, Cecilia Gamboa, Christine Campeau, George D. Kembo, George Gyan-Baffour, Gerda Verburg, Karima Al-Hada'a, Kiran Rupakhetee, Mathews Mhuru, Mike Khunga, Neil Watkins, Patricia Ngoran, Richmond Aryeetey, Arnhild Spence (SMS Transition)

Apologies: Matt Kovac

Observers: Felix Phiri, Hamid Jalil, Helena Guarin, Nancy Aburto, Richard Pendame, Said Shamsul Islam Shams (alternates), Emily Henegan, Ritta Shine (SBN), Stineke Oenema (UNN), Melanie Bruns (SDN), Anna Horner (WFP), Mary Phereh (Govt. Of Ghana), Siboniso Chigova (Govt of Zimbabwe), Mojijul Bulbul (Govt. Of Bangladesh), Aminata Diop (CLM Govt of Senegal), SMS Country Liaison team, SMS Strategic Management Team

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Decentralization Plans: Original Intent and Current
 - Q&A for information
 - Discussion/Comments
 - Concluding on a way forward
3. AOB and closing of the meeting

Decisions and follow up

- *The ExCom decided to initiate the regionalization of the SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS) with one staff member in each of the proposed 'hubs' in Nairobi, Dakar, Panama, Bangkok and a humanitarian hub in Geneva (Option 1).*
- *The SUN Movement Secretariat was requested to assess the possibility of one fully staffed regional hub, to consider the regionalization of other Geneva-based staff in the secretariat in support of the regional leads and to develop parameters to evaluate the success of this regionalisation exercise.*
- *ExCom members are requested to explore secondments possibilities and/or earmarked funding for additional positions in the regional hubs.*

Summary note

1. Welcome and introductions

The Co-Chairs opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. Andrew Kirkwood introduced himself and informed the SUN Movement Executive Committee (ExCom) that he will take over the Ex-Officio seat as UNOPS director for Geneva.

2. Decentralization plans

The Co-Chairs opened the discussion and reminded the ExCom about the request from countries to have support closer to countries to complement the current support from the networks and UN system.

Arnhild Spence, Senior Advisor on the SMS Transformation, provided an update to the SUN Movement Executive Committee based upon the [memorandum](#) circulated in preparation of the meeting and continuous discussion with stakeholders. The three proposed options were summarised:

1. Proceed with the deployment of SMS Regional Representatives in Dakar, Nairobi, Bangkok, Panama and Geneva as the fifth location to host the humanitarian portfolio. Regional teams could be reinforced through secondments from the SUN Movement.
2. Populate one regional hub only, with a full team of four staff, to pilot SMS regionalisation and report back to Ex Com after one year. Countries outside the selected hub would receive reduced support during the piloting period due to limited SMS Human Resources capacity
3. Keep the SMS Country Action Team in Geneva but rearrange the portfolios so that a regional approach could still be carried out, and revisit regionalisation if or when additional contributions allow the staffing of regional teams.

SUN country focal points reiterated their support for option 1 to have the support geographically closer, to build on the regional thematic issues, and to align ongoing regional work. It was suggested by other members that the SMS decentralisation could be aligned with the regional efforts of the CSN and SBN, and that efforts to secure resources for additional regional positions should be made. It was emphasized that communication lines between regional hubs should be encouraged.

ExCom members discussed the challenges that a single representative in the region may face in providing the support needed to countries (as opposed to a full regional team as originally envisioned in the SMS Functional Review for a four person team in the region) as well as the importance of complementarity (rather than duplication) of efforts of actors already established in the regions. An unease was expressed that pursuit of only one regional hub as set out in option 2 could prevent equal opportunities to shore up the regional support that every region in the SUN Movement has been requesting for some time. Some members were cautious about the possibility to recruit secondments whilst others asked if some of the Geneva-based SMS positions funded in the interim model could be regionalized.

The budgetary implications of advancing option 2 were highlighted as well as the risk of unequal levels of support to SUN Countries in a scenario where only one region would have access to a fully staffed regional hub. ExCom members were encouraged to consider secondments or earmarked budget contributions from their organisations and constituencies to help resource regional positions in addition to the five regional SMS representatives that are funded in the interim model. These five regional SMS representative positions proposed in Option 1 have been approved by UNOPS to be filled at the P4 level with fixed term contracts to ensure the recruitment and retention of highly qualified candidates.

At the end of the discussion the Co-Chairs summarized there were different preferred options and acknowledged there was no perfect solution. Given the need to ensure support to countries to be optimal they concluded the following: The Co-Chairs heard a majority of voices in favor of Option 1 (to initiate the regionalization of the SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS) with one staff member in each of the proposed ‘hubs’ in Nairobi, Dakar, Panama, Bangkok and a humanitarian hub in Geneva) and proposed this Option be agreed. This was supported by the ExCom members. The ExCom Co-Chairs will work with SMS to explore options to go into more depth in one of the regions by reviewing the cost of one fully staffed regional hub, exploring potential to regionalize any other Geneva-based staff in the secretariat and to develop parameters to evaluate the success of this regionalisation exercise. ExCom members were requested to explore secondments possibilities and/or earmarked funding for additional positions in the regional hubs.

3. AOB and closing of the meeting

The Coordinator asked members of the Executive Committee to consider secondments and to think of win-win opportunities to fill positions. She also reiterated the need for the GSS (Global Support System: SMS and Networks) to deliver as one and to focus all its efforts on support at the country level.

The Co-Chairs thanked all participants and closed the meeting.