

SUN Movement Executive Committee (ExCom) Meeting 22 June 2023, 15:00 - 17:30 CEST (virtual) Summary note

Participation

ExCom Participants: Gladys Mugambi and Connell Foley (Co-Chairs), Kiran Rupakhetee (Central and South Asia), Patricia Ngoran (Francophone Africa), Eugenia Villalobos (Latin America), George Baffour (East and Central Africa), Karima Al-Hada'a (Regional), Mathews Mhuru (Regional), Nancy Aburto (FAO), Christine Campeau (CSN), Neil Watkins (SDN), Augustin Flory (Finance) Caroline Wilkinson (Humanitarian), Richmond Aryeetey (MEAL/analytics), Mike Khunga (Youth).

Ex-Officio Members: Afshan Khan (SUN Movement Coordinator), Andrew Kirkwood (UNOPS).

Apologies: George D. Kembo (S. Africa), Abigail Perry (UNN) and Matt Kovac (SBN).

Observers: *Alternates:* Mary Mpereh (East and Central Africa), Florence Sibomana (Youth), Venuste Muhamyankaka (Regional), Helena Guarin (SDN), Ibiso Ivy King-Harry (Regional); *Networks:* Melanie Bruns (SDN), Alex Newlands (SBN) *Others:* Ilaria Schibba (WFP).

SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS): Marcy Vigoda, Maria Pizzini, Elena Gaino, Eve Gossiaux, Francisca Gomez Cisterna, Judith Kabore, Takhani Kromah, Kendra Siekmans, Sonia Ancellin-Panzani, Srikanth Eadara, Tendai Gunda, Zahra Inayat, Andoniaina Brice, Irina Zodrow, Fred Cave, Alex Brecher, Michelle Link.

Decisions

The ExCom endorsed the recommendation of the ExCom Global Gathering Reference Group for Rwanda to host the 2024 SUN Movement Global Gathering.

Follow-up Actions:

In relation to ensuring shared value of the Joint Annual Assessment (JAA) exercise:

- ExCom members reiterated the value and importance of the JAA. Representatives from UN Nutrition and the Civil Society Network as well as the ExCom Finance Expert confirmed that they remain available to support the exercise and/or help convene at the country level.
- SMS will share JAA feedback from countries and regions as documented in Patricia's talking points ([here](#)). (UPDATE: sent by email by SMS on 26 June 2023.)

In relation to the Global Gathering:

- ExCom members were asked to keep the decision on the Global Gathering host confidential until all host candidates are informed and the official announcement of the SUN Global Gathering is sent out to all parts of the Movement.

- SMS to finalise draft letters for ExCom Co-Chairs to send to countries that applied to host the Global Gathering, followed by public announcement. (UPDATE: all letters were sent to host candidates on 23 June 2023.)

On key themes, messaging and recommendations:

- ExCom members are invited to share their inputs to further shape the [five identified areas of focus and future action](#) given their knowledge of their respective constituencies' capacities, interests and potential **by 30 June**. (UPDATE: sent by email by SMS on 26 June 2023.)

Other Business

- **ExCom Mandate Extension:** Before approaching the Lead Group Chair for approval, the SMS will survey ExCom members' interest and availability to extend their current mandate to hand over to a renewed ExCom composition in June 2024 during the SUN Movement Global Gathering. (UPDATE: ExCom members to reply to email sent by SMS on 26 June 2023.)

Summary note

1. Opening of meeting/agenda approval/ past action points

- Remarks by the new SUN Coordinator, Afshan Khan, available [here](#).

2. SUN Country-Led Discussion: Ensuring a shared value for SUN Countries to participate in the Joint Annual Assessment (JAA) exercise.

- SUN Country Regional Representatives agreed to use this session to exchange views from across their regions on the value and opportunities to improve the completion and utilisation of the [SUN Movement's JAA exercise](#). This discussion complemented [Agenda Item 4](#) where preliminary JAA results were shared along with an initial analysis of key themes, messages and recommendations emerging from the JAA data and available network surveys.
- Patricia Ngoran, the SUN Country Regional Representative for West and Central Africa, shared a summary of the feedback that SUN Country Regional Representatives have heard across their regions. The link to Patricia's talking points is available [here](#).
 - Following Patricia's presentation, ExCom members exchanged views on how to ensure that the JAA best serves SUN Countries.
 - ExCom members agreed that the JAA:
 - Should be used primarily to maximise performance at country level as well as also informing global strategy.
 - Processes should be improved so that details on progress over time can be tracked and analysed where the data allows.
 - Demonstrates the health and functioning of MSPs and therefore points to the importance of global networks supporting countries and the need to streamline the exercise.
 - The SMS Director noted the following regarding the JAA and associated process:

- The JAA is designed primarily for country learning rather than for evaluation.
- The timeliness of data analysis is key to be valuable for decision making and planning.
- Regional MEAL briefs are under development and should be a useful tool for SUN Countries.

3. SUN Global Gathering hosting decision

During this segment, ExCom members were asked to consider the recommendation of the ExCom Global Gathering Reference Group and decide on the 2024 SUN Movement Global Gathering host country. Background documents [\(here\)](#) that supported the decision-making process were shared in relation to this agenda item on 12 June 2023.

At its recent meeting on 6 June 2023, the ExCom Global Gathering Reference Group met to review the outcomes of the assessments of four host candidates' proposals in line with the methodology the group had endorsed in May 2023. During this call, the ExCom Global Gathering Reference Group agreed to recommend Rwanda as the host of the next SUN Movement Global Gathering. After a brief discussion, the ExCom endorsed this recommendation for Rwanda to host the 2024 Global Gathering.

- It is important to clarify that a member of the ExCom Global Gathering Reference Group is part of the Civil Society Network in Rwanda and was asked to recuse himself from the vote on 6 June 2023, which he did.
- Similarly, the ExCom member from Zambia recused himself from the decision-making process in the meeting on 22 June 2023.

All ExCom members were asked to keep the decision by this group confidential until the other countries who offered to host are informed and the official announcement of the SUN Global Gathering is sent out to all parts of the Movement.

4. **Progress on the Movement, Interactive discussion and agreement: Key strategic themes and top-line recommendations.** Please find a link to the slides presented [here](#) and [here](#).

The ExCom noted the following regarding the JAA outcomes presentation by the SMS Team:

1. The trends and themes reflect the importance of building advocacy across the movement.
2. Important to understand nuances of findings and messages around donor and UN alignment.
3. The Movement could benefit from a stronger focus on Fragile and Conflict Affected States (FCAS) given the burden of malnutrition in these environments.

4. Helpful to see progress and year-on-year comparison particularly in relation to the elevation of nutrition to above ministry-level coordination. This level of analysis shows how participation in the SUN Movement can bolster political commitment.
5. SUN Country uptake in the development of costed national nutrition plans has continued to increase and is widely appreciated as a basis for increasing resource mobilisation.
6. There has been mixed progress in the mobilisation of additional domestic and external resources and the availability of funding remains a bottleneck for more than half of the countries. Accordingly, resource mobilisation and financial planning are among the top capacity needs expressed by countries.
7. The demand from countries for capacity enhancement and technical assistance from SUN's Global Support System remains substantial. The SUN Movement needs to strategically consider its role as a neutral broker in meeting these demands, progressively moving towards structurally embedded capacity strengthening.
8. There is a need to understand the importance and/or necessity of regional coordination for SUN networks.

In response to questions and comments, the SMS Director responded with the following points:

1. Expressed gratitude to UN-Nutrition for offering to provide more input.
2. Confirmed that the audience for the JAA is the ExCom for their guidance and reaction. It is also designed to understand the capacity, interests and potential of country based constituencies.
3. SMS will work closely with SUN networks to ensure that country priorities reported through the JAA continue to inform work plan development in terms of coordination of support, capacity strengthening and technical assistance.
4. Specific to regionalization, CSN is in active recruitment of their regional representatives, and SBN placed a colleague in Nairobi, last year. This is not to say that all regions require the same; however, it does demonstrate that each part of the movement is evolving its approach to suit SUN countries' desire for regional presence, if/as the need should arise.
5. Important to manage expectations about our ability to carry out longer-term trend analysis given the limited number of data points that are possible to compare over time.

5. Other business, agreed actions and next steps

ExCom members were invited to confirm their interest and availability to extend their current mandate to hand over to a renewed ExCom composition in June 2024 during the SUN Movement Global Gathering.

During the March retreat, the ExCom agreed to an in-principle extension of the ExCom (potentially until March 2024). The rationale behind this proposed extension was to ensure continuity of leadership, especially in the lead-up to the Global Gathering and to ensure lessons learned during the roll-out of the ExCom guiding documents are taken on board (ExCom [Terms of Reference](#) and [Rules of Procedure](#)).

As discussed, the proposition to extend the term of the current Excom is subject to an approval process that the SMS will coordinate with the Lead Group Chair. The SMS will follow up in writing with ExCom members.

The Co-Chairs presented their proposed meeting agendas for September and December 2023 as well as the retreat planned for February 2024 ([here](#)). The request to include a discussion on the SMS workplan and budget for 2024 on the December agenda (rather than to review through a written submission) was acknowledged.

The Co-Chair (Gladys Mugambi) closed the meeting by briefly summarising the decisions and follow-up actions agreed during the meeting ([see page 1](#)).