

SUN Movement Executive Committee (ExCom)

8 October 2024, 15:00 - 17:30 CEST (virtual)

Summary note

Decisions

1. The Executive Committee endorsed the recommendation to postpone the Global Gathering in response to the Marburg outbreak and health and safety concerns for all.
2. Neema Luangira and Jessica Fanzo were elected as Co-Chairs of the Executive Committee to serve until July 2026.

Follow-up Actions

- The Coordinator to communicate the postponement to the Government of Rwanda and GG participants.
- SMS will review the financial feasibility of moving all/parts of the GG to other country locations, or on-line, and set a date for the next GG in consideration of the global and election calendars. Work will continue to ensure the momentum created in the GG preparations is pivoted into the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit and other key nutrition 'moments' in 2025.

Summary note

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

In the absence of elected Co-Chairs, the SUN Movement Coordinator chaired the meeting. The revised agenda was approved without further additions. The Coordinator reviewed the **action points** from the last ExCom meeting on 18 July 2024 (meeting summary [here](#)).

The Coordinator thanked ExCom members who volunteered to support the resource mobilization efforts of the Global Support System (GSS) by assisting in refining the fundraising pitch. The SUN Movement Secretariat will shortly share a one-pager outlining the current fundraising situation of the Global Support System and proposals for a coordinated approach.

2. Executive Committee Co-Chair election - candidate presentation & online voting

The Coordinator drew attention to the [background package](#) of information and outlined the process: One **Co-Chair was to be elected from the ExCom representatives of SUN countries** (candidates for this position: **Neema Luangira** and **Shabina Raza**). The **other Co-Chair was to be elected from among the remaining seats (Jessica Fanzo)**. Candidates gave brief presentations and an electronic voting process took place.

3. Global Gathering Programme update

The Coordinator thanked everyone for their role in preparing for the SUN Movement Global Gathering (SUN GG) and then presented the **increasing concerns coming from across the SUN Movement in response to the Marburg virus outbreak in Rwanda**.

The presentation outlined three levels of risk i) health and safety (CDC level 3 advising against all non essential travel); ii) financial and iii) reputational. The Coordinator commended the Government of Rwanda's swift action to contain the virus and emphasised that **bringing more than 1,000 attendees from 66 countries to Rwanda may complicate the government's response**. Given the case fatality rate and unavailability of treatment for the virus the health risks and reputational risks were high.

The Coordinator called for endorsement of the recommendation to postpone the GG in Rwanda to a new date in 2025. A timely decision was requested to avoid incurring more costs. She noted that:

- The **cost (financial loss) of postponing the SUN GG to a later date in Rwanda** is approximately \$110,000, rising thereafter from October 11th.
- **The cost of cancelling the SUN GG is between \$600,000 to \$1 million (time sensitive).**

The Coordinator reinforced the **urgency of identifying a new date soon to allow attendees to adjust their travel plans and minimize additional financial costs.**

The Coordinator concluded with the following points:

- **The SUN Movement remains committed to holding the SUN GG in Rwanda, both due to contractual obligations but also to assure the Government of Rwanda of our commitment to the bidding and vetting process that was conducted last year.**
- As a Movement, **SUN must explore how to support initiatives that were relying on the exchange and discussion among countries, in particular the N4G Summit.** The SUN Movement will engage to advance N4G commitments and the Coordinator will meet with the Special Envoy for N4G highlighting SUN's support to the Summit in March.
- **The proposed SUN GG 2025 timing aligns with the extension of the WHA nutrition targets and provides an opportunity to build momentum for food systems and climate action as well as garnering support for N4G commitment delivery.** The SUN Movement has developed several products with the SUN GG thematic group Co-Chairs to effectively advocate for the forthcoming nutrition agenda leading up to N4G and COP 30.

Discussion and Agreed Way Forward

- **ExCom members endorsed the recommendation to postpone the SUN GG** to allow space for the authorities in Rwanda to manage, respond, and contain the Marburg virus outbreak.
- **A postponement of the GG in Rwanda is preferred over a cancellation to ensure SUN funding can be used most effectively** and as an expression of solidarity to Rwanda.
- It was agreed that **a decision and official communication should follow swiftly to inform participants and minimize financial loss.** The immediate priority is to communicate the postponement effectively with all the networks and participants who have put so much effort into the Global Gathering.
- As negotiations with the Rwanda Conference Bureau proceed, **identifying a new date for the GG as soon as possible will be critical.** Given the N4G Summit 27-28 March 2025 and mindful of other significant events on the calendar (including national and local elections in Africa in that same period) a Q3/Q4 date is most likely. ExCom will be kept informed.
- The **importance of not losing the momentum already gained during the preparations of the SUN GG was highlighted** especially in relation to N4G preparations.
 - It was agreed that **more thinking and planning was required on how best to keep the momentum and different ideas were mentioned,** from the organisation of smaller regional gatherings, a high-level meeting of ministers of finance focus on the WB's new financing framework ahead of N4G, to theme based discussions that reflect on N4G commitments after the Summit and in the lead of the SUN GG.
- **In the absence of the opportunity to meet in person at the Global Gathering, it was proposed that the ExCom should meet in person** in Q1 2025 to discuss the findings of the SUN Movement 3.0 evaluation and address critical questions regarding the Movement's future direction.

4. Executive Committee Co-Chair election results

The results of the votes of the 15 voting members at the meeting were announced.

ExCom **Co-Chair seat (from amongst SUN country representatives):**

- Neema Lugangira: ten votes
- Shabeena Raza: five votes.

For the **ExCom Co-Chair seat** (from among the remaining seats):

- Jessica Fanzo: 13 votes in support, with 2 votes against.

Neema Lugangira and Jessica Fanzo were announced as the new SUN ExCom Co-Chairs.

5. Summary, agreed actions and concluding remarks

The Coordinator thanked everyone for their thoughtful deliberations. An update will be shared with the ExCom once communications on the postponement have been sent out and details of options are clear. Special thanks was extended to the Co-Chairs for their support as they will be called upon in coming days as plans evolve. The Coordinator acknowledged Shabina Raza for her commitment as a civil society representative and the need for her ongoing engagement within the Executive Committee.

ANNEX 1: Participation:

ExCom Participants: George Kembo (*Southern Africa*), Patricia Ngoran (West and Central Africa), Abigail Perry (UNN), Christine Campeau (CSN), Neil Watkins (SDN), Mr. Aimé Garlas Kwizera, Elisa Gamero (SUN LAC Representative), Florence Sibomana (SUN Youth Representative), Jessica Fanzo (Climate and Nutrition Expert), Kyoko Shibata Okamura (Finance Expert), Mohamed Farah (SUN Country Representative, countries in Humanitarian Contexts), Nazeer Ahmed (Asia Representative), Neema Lugangira, (Additional SUN Country Seat), Said Shamsul Islam Shams (Humanitarian Expert), Shabina Raza (Additional SUN Country Seat).

Ex-Officio Members: Afshan Khan (SUN Movement Coordinator, UN ASG), Peter Komol (UNOPS Geneva Financial Management Officer) representing UNOPS on

Apologies: Andrew Kirkwood (UNOPS, Geneva Director), Kefilwe Moalosi (Additional SUN Country Seat)

OBSERVERS

SUN Networks: Alex Newlands (CSN), Ilaria Schibba (WFP - UN-N), Ritta Shine (GAIN - SBN), Alessandra Mora (WFP), Lena Dreyer (GIZ, SDN Facilitator), Helena Guarin (SDN, EC - INTPA)

SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS): Joanne Raisin, Maria Pizzini, Paul Mazza, Julia Klever, Michelle Link, Srikanth Eadara, Irina Zoderow, Eve Gossiaux, Francisca Cisterna-Gomez, Toby Johnson, Joshua Levens, Tetteh Ogum, Sonia Ancellin-Panzani, Zahra Inayat