

**GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA  
STEERING GROUP MEETING  
11 July 2019**

1. The third GHSA Steering Group under the chairmanship of the Netherlands was organized in the form of a teleconference on 11 July 2019. The following members of the GHSA Steering Group attended the teleconference: Australia, Canada, Finland, Indonesia, Italy, the Netherlands, Saudi-Arabia, Thailand, the United States, the WHO, FAO and OIE, GHSAC and PSRT. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Herbert Bernard, the Director of International Affairs of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport of the Netherlands.

**Discussion on new GHSA Steering Group candidates**

2. As chair, the Netherlands sent out a call to all GHSA members on 17 May to all the member countries to express their interest in becoming a member of the Steering Group for 2020 and 2021. Pakistan applied for 2020-2021 and nominated Amran Ikran.
3. **Can we accept this candidacy?** The United States have expressed their appreciation to Pakistan's commitment in global health security. They support the addition of Pakistan in the Steering Group. The WHO, FAO and OIE also welcome the addition of Pakistan to the Steering Group, as well as Australia and Canada. The Steering Group seeks some additional information around Pakistan's candidacy.
4. The chair **concluded** that in general the SG supports the membership request from Pakistan. However, we need some additional information about the involvement of other departments in Pakistan, if the country will act through a One Health approach and what the broader commitment will be. Assuming that we receive additional information, we can decide on Pakistan's membership in the next SG meeting.
5. One other remark made by the FAO: in the future, we must ask additional members for a contact point in the Ministry of Health **and** the Ministry Agriculture to maintain a One Health approach.

**GHSA Steering Group chair candidates**

6. The call for interest made by the Chair did not result in any expression of interest for the position of chair in 2020 nor 2021. As no country expressed this interest during the meeting, the Chair proposed the following: could the Steering Group give the Chair a mandate to engage in informal discussions with potentially suitable candidates for 2020 and 2021?
7. The United States support the proposal of the Chair to actively look for the next chair and underlines the importance of this choice and that the multi-sectoral support must be taken into account when looking for potential candidates. If at all possible, the US asks the Chair to announce the next Chair in September this year. Finland and Italy support the mandate as well.
8. The Chair **concluded** that the Steering Group supports the proposed way forward. The Chair will actively reach out to potential candidates for the position of the chair for 2020 and 2021.

9. **How do we prevent this situation from happening again?** Every year it looks like we need to make a big effort to find a new GHSA chair. What suggestions do the Steering Group members have to prevent this situation for the future, and do the members think that using the alphabetical order for appointing the next chair is a good idea?
10. Indonesia underlined that the members of the Steering Group are collectively responsible for finding the next chair, and that all members should feel that responsibility.
11. Finland suggests that the Chair, when reaching out to potential candidates for chair of 2020 also asks the member countries to indicate their interest for future years up until 2023 and to maintain these indications on a list of potential future candidates.
12. The United States emphasized that the member countries need to look at the leadership role an opportunity for countries to step up. It is important to have fresh leadership every year and candidates that have not served as chair before for the development of the GHSA.
13. The Chair **concluded** that it will actively seek out a potential next chair for 2020. The Chair made one more suggestion on this topic: it wants to engage with the Stakeholder Engagement Task force to come up with a better procedure for appointing future GHSA chairs to avoid this discussion in the future.

#### **Discussion on GHSA Ministerial**

14. **Senegal** had indicated that it would be pleased to organize the Ministerial Meeting in November. A small delegation visited Senegal in April 2019. But now our colleagues in Senegal informed us that the preparations have been significantly delayed due to the government reforms. No invitations or save-the-dates have been sent around and there is no progress on the program. Senegal is afraid that the organization of the meeting in November will not be possible. The Steering Group needs to discuss on how to go forward.
15. **The Chair concludes that** there is no realistic chance that Senegal will be able to organize the meeting this year. There are several items up for discussion:
  - a. Will the Ministerial Meeting take place in Senegal or in another country?
  - b. Is there any SG member that can take on the organization of the Meeting for 2019?
  - c. Will the Meeting be postponed to 2020, and will it be early or late 2020?
16. The OIE, United States and Australia share the view that it is not realistic to have a Ministerial Meeting in 2019 in any country, as it is on very short notice. It is unlikely to have attendance Ministers or other high level representation at such a Meeting in 2019. Australia proposed to give Senegal the explicit opportunity to organize the Meeting in 2020. The United States pointed out that other significant events could mitigate the loss of not having a Ministerial in 2019 and allow us to continue the momentum. Finland and Italy agree that a Ministerial Meeting could be moved up to 2020.
17. The FAO remarks that within the Steering Group the decision was once made to minimize the amount of official meetings a little bit. With this in mind, we could postpone the Meeting to the second half of 2020.
18. The WHO echoes all comments made so far and introduces the idea of having some kind of side event at one of WHO's meetings in 2019 to highlight the accomplishments of GHSA in 2019. It will keep the Chair informed about this.

19. The question was raised if a meeting on the Caribbean is still on the calendar of the Chair. The Chair is tentatively planning to organize that in the second week of December, but it depends on the decision on the Ministerial Meeting.
20. The Chair **concluded** that there will not be a ministerial in 2019 and proposes to move up the Ministerial Meeting to 2020. The Chair will look into options to organize a senior meeting late 2019 maybe combined with another event to keep the momentum going. It also **concluded** that it will look for another country to host the Ministerial Meeting in 2020. It will take into account other events planned and it will contact Senegal organizing the Meeting in 2020. The GHSAC asks the Chair to also take into consideration the schedule for the future Ministerial Meetings.

### **Action Package on sustainable financing**

21. The United States gave an update on the work plan for this Action Package. During the Steering Group Meeting in May the draft of the work plan was presented. During the discussion the group affirmed the creation of the Action Package in principle. The lead then circulated the proposals for this AP through email and finally, the AP was reaffirmed by the group. The lead conducted consultations GHSAC wide and received a lot of interest and support for the work plan (draft). The current membership of the working group consists of: Italy, Norway, Pakistan, PSRT, GHSAC and the World Bank.
22. Australia informed the AP lead that it is keen to participate in the working group. Thailand proposed that the working group should involve more partners internationally. The WHO informed the AP lead that it would like to engage in a discussion with the working group to know more about the key activities of the AP.
23. The United States underlines that the work of the AP is not to be done in a vacuum. They welcome the discussions with the WHO and appreciate the interest of Australia to participate in the working group.
24. The Chair **concluded** that the AP is reaffirmed and wishes all the participants good luck with taking the next steps.

### **Update from the Task Force Action Package Coordination**

25. An update was given by the lead Saudi-Arabia: the most important activity has been the conference call between all the AP leads and the Task Force Coordination. A remark that Saudi-Arabia made was that some members of this Task Force are registered but inactive or not as active as we would want to see.
26. The Netherlands asks the Task Force if there is contact with these less active members? And is the Stakeholder engagement task Force also engaged with this?
27. Chair thanked the Taskforce leads for their work and requested them to reach out to the Task Force Stakeholder Engagement to develop an approach towards inactive members.

### **AOB/Update secretariat/closing remarks**

28. Finland announced that there will be a side event about One Health Security on 14-15 October as part of a project by the EU Commission.
29. Australia gave a short update on the secretariat. It proposed to the SG members to get in contact with the secretariat for specific updates on the different task forces. The website of GHSAC is being updated by the secretariat as well. At last, the secretariat will

be able to help getting the AP Coordination Task Force and the Stakeholders engagement task force in contact with the less active members of GHSA.

**30.** The Chair thanks the SG members for their participation.

**Follow-up actions:**

1. Chair will reach out to GHSA members with targeted requests concerning becoming Chair of the Steering Group and hosting the Ministerial in 2020.
2. Secretariat will ask government of Pakistan to provide more information on their One Health cooperation within the government
3. Chair will ask the Task Force Stakeholder engagement to develop a procedure for selection of the Chair of the Steering group to prevent issues of succession in the future