**Minutes of meeting of Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy (GPZL) Leadership Team**

**Held by Zoom at 13:00 hours CET on 15 August 2023**

**Attendees:**

*Leadership Team (LT) Invited but unable to attend*

Takahiro Nanri (Acting Chair) Berta Mendiguren

Lucrécia Vasquez Acevedo Mauricio Nobre

Deanna Hagge Bill Simmons

Linda Hummel Jordan Tappero

Subbanna Jonnalagada

Benedict Quao *Support*

Sunil Modali Monty Mukhier (ILEP)

Faustino Pinto Spanish and Portuguese interpreters

P. Narasimha Rao

Amar Timalsina

Emmy van der Grinten

Geoff Warne

1. **Introduction**

Taka Nanri welcomed everyone and invited Sunil Modali, who is representing Novartis while Arielle Cavaliero is on sick leave, to introduce himself.

1. **Minutes of previous meetings**

The minutes of the in-person meeting on 25 March 2023 were approved subject to:

* Inclusion of the value proposition, goal and objectives referred to in the text.
* Changing ‘expenditures’ to ‘main expenditure lines’ in Item 2

Geoff Warne agreed to circulate the one-page five-year summary, referenced in the minutes.

1. **GPZL update**

Taka referred to the update that had been emailed to LT members on 2 August. Building on that, he explained that the Steering Committee recognized that the workload during the July-December 2023 transitional period is less than expected, and had therefore not proceeded to recruit a high-level transition manager. Geoff Warne is currently covering some Secretariat duties.

1. **Leadership Team meeting 7-9 October in Delhi**

Taka talked about his conversations with some LT members following the 30 May Zoom call, which had reinforced the need for an in-person meeting. The Steering Committee proposed a three-day meeting in New Delhi, India. This would enable Sasakawa Health Foundation to organize the meeting in the absence of a Secretariat. The dates 7-9 October were proposed to enable participation by LT members that are attending the WHO Leprosy TAG meeting, being held in India on 5-6 October.

In discussion, LT members agreed that an in-person meeting is necessary to ensure ample time for everyone to be heard and understood and for agreement to be reached on future strategy. Lucrécia Acevedo said that this was particularly true for the representatives of persons affected by leprosy. Faustino Pinto proposed that the program should include a visit to a colony in Delhi. Close-up engagement in people’s own environments would help the LT by balancing the technical aspects of the work (documents, policies etc) with the human reality of people’s struggle to improve their lives. Taka agreed to arrange this, and added that being in Delhi would also enable interaction with WHO.

The LT agreed to the date, location and proposed outputs for the meeting. Geoff clarified that ‘medium to long term’ strategy currently meant 2023-2026, but the LT might decide on a different duration. He picked up on Taka’s proposal to include, in the discussion about structure, more thinking on the role of persons affected by leprosy in GPZL. He confirmed that the Steering Committee would bring proposals around strategy, structure and leadership to the meeting as a starting point for discussion. The LT discussed facilitation and asked the Steering Committee to investigate whether any senior organizational leaders in India, with appropriate experience in multi-stakeholder international organizations, might be available.

It was noted that all LT members other than Linda Hummel and the WHO GLP team are likely to be present. Lucrécia would need to confirm whether she or another representative would attend, and Geoff would check on Jordan Tappero’s availability. Taka agreed to find mechanisms to enable people that cannot attend to express their views in advance or to send representatives that are authorized to make the necessary decisions.

1. **Milestones and budget July-December 2023**

The LT approved the Milestones and budget proposed by the Steering Committee. Geoff Warne left the meeting at this point. On proposal by Taka, the LT approved that Geoff should be remunerated for his hours of work in place of a Secretariat, and asked the Steering Committee to negotiate the details.

1. **Next virtual meeting**

The LT agreed on a virtual meeting in September to approve the detailed program and agenda for the Delhi meeting, and asked the Steering Committee to set a date.

Taka invited Amar Timalsina to conclude the meeting, which he did by thanking all participants and emphasizing the importance of the in-person Leadership Team meeting in October. The meeting closed just after 14:00 hours CET.