



Joint GARD Executive Committee and Planning Group meeting, 8-9 October 2008, Berlin, Germany

Summary

The meeting focused on the implementation of the GARD Action Plan 2008-2013 endorsed by GARD General Meeting, 30-31 May 2008, Istanbul, Turkey and on the planning of next GARD General Meeting, 12-13 June 2009, Rome, Italy. In this respect, the following documents were approved: i) a human resource plan was approved with the aim of assigning GARD Planning Group, Executive Committee and working group members to the four strategic objectives. This plan will be sent to all GARD participants to ask for their participation in this direction; ii) proposal of a new format for the 2009 General Meeting. This proposal aims at an interactive meeting characterized by different parallel sessions organized on the basis of GARD Action Plan 2008-2013 and GARD Country workshops. As elections of GARD Executive Committee and Planning Group will take place in this occasion, it was suggested that an electoral officer be nominated.

Members gave presentation on different topics. The following documents will need to be revised and submitted to the next GARD Planning Group meeting, proposed to March 2009, Washington, USA: i) proposal on the Executives of GARD working groups, ii) proposal on the panel of GARD advisers, iii) proposal of criteria for participation in GARD.

The following reports were presented for consideration: i) report of the first meeting of the working group on resource mobilization; ii) report of GARD secretariat concerning publications, financial status and collaborating parties; iii) activities carried out by GARD Countries; iv) report on the proposal of a gift of equipment for pulmonary function offered to WHO Department of Essential Health Technologies, and their request for support to the development of a project proposal aiming to scale up measurements of pulmonary function for prevention and control of chronic respiratory diseases; v) report on the support that GARD could provide to WHO on technical work.

Recommendations/follow up points

1. GARD Executive Committee and Planning Group to follow up on the implementation of GARD Action Plan 2008-2013 with the help of the human resources assignment plan. The liaison person to contact the members of his/her group and to report during next GARD Planning Group meeting;
2. Proposals on GARD working groups executives, GARD panel of advisers, criteria for participation in GARD to be revised and submitted to next GARD Planning Group meeting for approval;
3. Financial report 2008 to be presented to next GARD Planning Group according to the format of the management report approved by 2008 General Meeting;
4. Next GARD General Meeting to be held in Rome, Italy on 12-13 June 2009. The event will be anticipated by a GARD Italy event on 11 June 2009. The programme of work to

be prepared by GARD secretariat according to the approved presented proposal and be submitted to the next GARD Planning Group meeting and WHO for approvals;

5. Next GARD Planning Group to be held during the annual meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI), 13-17 March 2009, Washington, USA.