Strategic Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting

February 1, 2024

Strategic Advisory Group Meeting

Global ETC Teleconference: Microsoft Teams
Date: 1/2/2024 **Time:** 14:00-15:00 CET

Attendance

ETC – SAG Chair	Brent Carbno	Montreal, Canada
Government of Luxembourg	Gilles Hoffmann	Luxembourg
Ericsson Response	Lars Ruediger	Germany
UNHCR	Nizar Zeidan	Copenhagen, Denmark
WFP	Oscar Caleman	Bangkok, Thailand
GSMA	Kimberly Brown	London, England

Agenda

- 2024 ETC Plenary Agenda planning
- Partnership model launch update
- ETC strategic direction
- SAG Vacancy
- AOB

Minutes

2024 ETC Plenary Agenda Planning

- Discussions at the plenary should include the current reality and "state of play" in the humanitarian sector around ICT. This could be an overarching theme of the meeting.

- Include topics that can inspire future forward discussions. We agreed to pursue guest speakers around topics such as AI, cybersecurity and data protection, developments in the space sector (ex. LEO), etc.
- SAG members will reach out to experts from organizations such as ICRC, GSMA, UNHCR/WFP Innovation, etc
- The global ETC team should also provide a review of the year and how different projects and activities have driven the cluster forward towards the strategic pillars and goals of the ETC2025 strategy.
- The plenary should also allow a discussion of the new partnership model, how to move the new engagements forward, and how to realize the local partner portion of the model.
- Another potential topic of discussion would be the activation of the cluster and alternative means of engagement such as preparedness and inter-agency support outside of activation.

Partnership model launch update

- The SAG chair updated the group on the official launch of the new ETC partnership model at the start of 2024.
- The applications from previously called "partners" for the new membership engagement level have begun to come in. So far there are no surprises as to the interest for membership from the existing group. There is still over a month for the previous partners to repond and reply.
- Bilateral meetings with those interested in memerbship have already begun.
- Applications for the ETC Global Partner Network have also begun to arrive. Once a large number (i.e. +10) applications have been received, the global team will hold a virtual meeting to explain more to the applicants the expectations on those that would be accepted in the network.

ETC strategic direction

- As much of the plenary discussion was focused on the future direction of the ETC, this topic will be addressed further in future SAG meetings. It was agreed that there is a need to adapt/evolve core ETC service offerings and better manage expectations for members and partners.

Current SAG vacancy

- With the departure of Dag Brynjarsson (NetHope) from the SAG, the vacancy for a NGO representative in the SAG was advertised. Unfortunately, there was no interest shown from the ETC partners to join the SAG in this role.
- The SAG agreed to amend the SAG ToR to ensure that if there is no interest in one of the pre-determined areas (i.e. UN, NGO, private sector, goverment, etc.), then any ETC member can join the SAG to fill the vacancy.
- Every effort will be made to ensure organizational and gender diversity in the SAG.
- There has been no new appeal to the partners to join the SAG in-light of the new partnership model and changes in engagement expectations. We will address this further at the ETC plenary.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)   www.ETCluster.org

AOB

- Going forward, we should reconsider how we report and assess the outcomes of operations and projects to put less emphasis on only connectivity and the related measurements.

Acronyms

ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
SAG	Strategic Advisory Group
ToR	Terms of Reference