



Strategic Advisory Group Minutes of Meeting

November 28-29, 2023

Strategic Advisory Group Meeting

Global ETC Teleconference: Microsoft Teams

Date: 28-29/11/2023 Time: 13:00-15:00 CET each day

Attendance

ETC – SAG Chair
Government of
Luxembourg

Ericsson Response
UNHCR
WFP
GSMA

Brent Carbno
Gilles Hoffmann

Lars Ruediger
Nizar Zeidan
Oscar Caleman
Kimberly Brown

Montreal, Canada
Luxembourg

Germany
Copenhagen, Denmark
Bangkok, Thailand
London, England

Agenda – November 28

- Final review of ETC partnership model

Agenda – November 29

- Endorsement by SAG of final revision of partnership model
- Plenary 2024 planning
- Current SAG vacancy and SAG ToR amendment
- Strategic direction of the ETC going forward

Minutes – November 28

Final review of ETC partnership model

- Over the past months, SAG members have provided feedback to the partnership model document to improve clarity and ensure important aspects are covered.
- Discussions focused in the meeting on finalizing the document, which included some final language improvements in terms of consistency and terminology.
- The transition phase for existing ETC partners towards either becoming an ETC member or part of the global ETC partner network required clarification. IASC members would be automatically a part of the global ETC partner network (as per the IASC guidance on clusters), and could also participate as a member with the required level of commitment.
- It was agreed that the final endorsement would be decided on November 29 after another pass of edits.

Minutes – November 29

Endorsement by SAG of final revision of partnership model

- The SAG chair endorsed the final revision and agreed to share with the ETC partners for comments and feedback (to be received by mid-December).
- If there are no major concerns from the current ETC partnership, the global ETC team will then ask the existing partners to state their intention on their preferred level of engagement by the end of February, 2024.

Plenary planning 2024

- It was agreed that all current ETC partners would be invited to the plenary in 2024. There may be member-only sessions if needed.
- The plenary format will be reviewed to include the possibility of inviting guest speakers, and an aim to focus more on strategic discussions.
- Future plenary meetings will be members only, with the possibility to include guests or observers.
- A global partner network forum will be needed in future years (like the OCHA-led WGET of the past).

Current SAG vacancy and ToR amendments

- 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 that there is a need 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, government, 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.

Strategic direction of the ETC going forward

- Going forward, the SAG plans to increasingly focus on the strategic direction of the ETC in order to ensure that the ETC remains relevant and provides services and support in the areas most needed in humanitarian emergencies.
- Focus will include more efforts in preparedness and a new model to better support community empowerment.
- There is a clear trend in emergencies over the past few years that direct support and service provision to humanitarian actors is needed less, this linked to more resilient commercial service providers as well as the lower cost and ease of use of modern connectivity solutions.
- The ETC needs to listen more to what the field activities and programs need from us in the future.
- We need to ensure that the ETC is “future-proof” to new coordination models and the reality of humanitarian needs to deliver digital aid.

Acronyms

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