



# Partnership for Sustained Elimination of Iodine Deficiency

Report of Board Meeting  
March 11, 2001  
Miami

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Present:

J. Werner Schultink (UNICEF)  
M.G. Venkatesh Mannar, David P. Haxton (MI)  
Marc van Ameringen, Ibrahim Daibes (MI)  
Yi Xiaoli (Chinese Salt Producers Association)  
L. Nettles Brown (Kiwaniis International)  
Walter W. Becky, Richard L. Hanneman (Salt Institute)  
Jack C.S. Ling, John T. Dunn (ICCIDD)  
Glen F. Maberly (Emory U)

Frits van der Haar (Secretariat)

Absent with apology:

Jan W.F. van Ingen (ESPA)  
Bruno de Benoist (WHO)  
Bob J. Baldwin (CDC)

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was rearranged given time constraints of members booked for travel overseas.

2. Approval of report of previous meeting

The report of the meeting in Amsterdam, 29-30 November 2001 was accepted.

3. Actions remaining from previous meetings

a. *Draft MOU*

On behalf of the Subcommittee, Venkatesh Mannar introduced the final draft, and discussed it in combination with the Brochure. The contributions made by Bruno de Benoist on the final draft MOU were appreciated.

Members commented that the formal document should use only one name for the Network. Members were not in favor of adding the word “Global” to the Network name. CDC was accepted for listing among the members. The Board meeting accepted the MOU unanimously.

Members were encouraged to communicate the MOU and Brochure through their broader networks of collaborators.

*b. Draft Guideline for Assessment of National Progress toward Optimum Nutrition*

The draft was developed by Subcommittee, with Glen Maberly coordinating the inputs of many members. The guideline was accepted by the Board meeting.

An earlier version of the guideline had been used by UNICEF headquarters to inform and encourage their network of country offices. Favorable responses had been received. The first assessment under the guideline was scheduled for Panama with ICCIDD as agreed-upon lead among members. UNICEF has received a request for an assessment in Armenia from the Ministry of Health. Jack Ling announced that the ICCIDD Regional Coordinators would be oriented in the agreed-upon procedure during the Annual ICCIDD Board meeting in April 2002.

The Board felt that an outline or template for reporting on assessments would be helpful. Jack Ling offered that a draft template would be developed at the ICCIDD Board meeting in April.

Werner Schultink emphasized clarity in the selection of teams for these assessments.

4. UN General Assembly Special Session on Children, May 8-10, 2002

*a. General purpose and arrangements*

The UNGASS in New York, 8-10 May 2002, will review the progress made in achieving the goals proclaimed at the World Summit for Children in 1990. A vision and goals for the future, drafted in the document “A World Fit for Children”, will be agreed upon. The UNGASS meeting, arranged by UNICEF on behalf of the UN, is among Government delegations. The draft document specifically references micronutrient goals, and specifically mentions “Public-Private Partnership” as the mechanism for pursuing the goal of “Virtual elimination of IDD by 2005”.

The UN event will attract many Heads of State and Government, and will have high interest by the media. As was prepared for the postponed UNGASS in September, there will be a Special Side Event, named “A Smart Start for Children”, to share the Network information with a broader audience. The biggest side room in the UN building is available, and the Side Event is scheduled for Wednesday, 8 May 2002, 10:00–11:30am.

Preparations for the Side Event will be coordinated from UNICEF. The team at the Nutrition Section is responsible for the overall arrangements and has asked for inputs by all members. The understandably tight security arrangements at the UNGASS are reason to assure that members and their affiliates need to register their attendance as early as possible.

*b. Designs and ideas for the Special Side Event*

UNICEF, through the country missions at the UN, has approached the delegations of several nations with invitations that their Head of Delegation would speak at the Side Event. Also the Ministers of key donor nations -U.S., Canada, The Netherlands- have been approached for a speech. Roger Moore might moderate the sessions, and Anatoly Karpov would make a special appeal to the Leaders of CIS. The video/multi-media announcing the formation of the Network would have a prominent place. Other speakers would include members of the Network, with special emphasis on Salt Producers. The Executive Director of UNICEF, Carol Bellamy, would be approached to speak during the introductory part of the Event.

The meeting agreed on a once weekly teleconference to share updates of the preparations.

Each member would submit to UNICEF its list of names of people to attend. The registrations would be vetted in a special office in the UN and UNICEF HQ would keep an eye on the process.

*c. Additional events associated with UNGASS*

The Board meeting agreed on holding a Press Conference and a reception after the Side Event. MI agreed to assist in developing a Press advisory, and offered to work with UNICEF on a venue and arrangement for a reception.

Members agreed to meet in the afternoon of 8 May 2002 for a short Board meeting.

5. Follow-Up from Miami Meeting

The Board expressed its appreciation to the main organizers of the Miami meeting. Most of the coordination had taken place from the Salt Institute and MI had funded the preparatory surveys among salt producers. UNICEF through its country office networks, and with coordination from the Regional Office in Panama, had been strongly mobilizing interests and participation.

Members pressed for quick release of the Proceedings. Glen Maberly had video-taped all the sessions, and most materials were ready in electronic form. Lab results of iodine analysis in salt collected prior to the meeting would need to be added in the report. The report would be in multi-media form, to be developed through the Secretariat. MI offered to mass-produce the report and arrange for its distribution. The Board asked for a draft to be ready for review at the next meeting.

6. Other Business

The issue was raised how decisions are reached at Board meetings. Members considered whether voting on proposals was preferred. It was agreed to continue working by consensus rather than formal votes.

Members discussed the idea that a logo for iodized salt might be developed for universal application. Registration for its use would be required for such a “stamp of approval” to obtain sufficient stature. The experience in China with a national logo was cited. The Secretariat was asked to collect existing logos and share these at a Board meeting in the future.

Future meetings similar to the Miami experience were proposed for South Asia (India), East Asia and Europe. The Kiwanis International Service Center – Europe, in Ghent, was ready to offer host a meeting among principals interested in pressing for progress in Europe.

The Secretariat was advised to put the minutes on the Network website.

7. Next Board Meeting

May 8<sup>th</sup> , 2002 in the afternoon. The Secretariat would make arrangements.