Meeting Minutes, 06 May 2021
Global Strategic Advisory Group

LOCATION
Teleconference

DATE
06 May 2021

CHAIR
Athalie MAYO

PARTICIPANTS
Bruno VANDEMEULEBROECKE, Fabrice PERROT, Pierre TRIPON, Susan HODGSON, Theo LINGENS.

ACTION POINTS
• Map out the SAG monthly calls.
• A proposal regarding the strategy consultation format will be sent to the SAG members.
• Concerns regarding UNHRD to be followed up.

AGENDA
1. Post-GLM review
2. Update on the strategy consultation
3. Updates on ULS and UNHRD
4. AOB

1. Post-GLM review

• The SAG members shared their respective feedback regarding the GLM and brought up some suggestions to be considered in future. The interactive and collaborative dimensions particularly have been highlighted as appreciated.
• A few insights and/or avenues for improving the future GLMs have been flagged:
  o Some participants found the questions posed during the breakout sessions to be unclear; more contextualisation was suggested as a possible way to mitigate this issue. Furthermore, the time allocated to some topics may have been too short in some instances.
  o The consultation phases of the GLM could be better positioned at the beginning of the week to foster participation.
  o Having participants onboard for a full week in a virtual setting is challenging.
  o The speed of some presentations during the plenary sessions was challenging for simultaneous translation.
  o Some of the breakout groups could be organised per language (e.g. French and Spanish) since live translation is not possible in such setting. Doing so, partners who do not speak English may still be able to engage and share their thoughts and ideas. Moreover, the breakout sessions could perhaps be shuffled every time so that participants may interact with an increased number of their counterparts.
• The question of representation has been raised by the SAG, highlighting the fact that no new partners from national level joined the GLM. Participants then reflected on how to engage a broader part on the humanitarian community in that regard.

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The SAG members shared their thoughts with regards to the autumn 2021 GLM organisation, especially on ways to enhance the event inclusivity. Moving forward, the following approaches will be considered:
  - Face-to-face venue if possible;
  - Hybrid format with an online platform available for partners unable to join physically;
  - Consider a “back-up option” in case a face-to-face setting had to be aborted.

Participants underlined that planning the next GLM must start well ahead of times as many elements take months to be sorted out (e.g. the event location, the guest speakers...).

2. Update on the strategy consultation

The SAG members have been asked how they would like to be engaged in the strategy consultation process. Furthermore, they reflected on the best way to have partners involved and to keep them informed along the way on progresses that have been made and deliverables that are expected.

In order to structure the strategy development and widen the range of expertise, SAG members could join the focus groups for each of the four strategic blocks and the SAG will be updated routinely on progress with the strategy development.

SAG reflected on the best way to organise the consultations and wondered if, considering the time constraint, tackling both the details of implementation and overarching strategy together is feasible. Prioritising through the year these interdependent and non-mutually exclusive topics has been underscored as a viable solution.

3. Updates on ULS and UNHRD

Some SAG members updated on progress with the Universal Logistics Standards (ULS) and the ongoing consultation process to see whether they would be incorporated in Sphere. It was stated that questions may be asked with respect to the role of the Logistics Cluster in “endorsing” the ULS initiative. Participants reflected on whether or not additional standards (further to existing industry wide standards) were required by humanitarian logisticians. It was flagged that the only forum for more formalised “endorsement” of initiatives was through consultation with the broader partnership base of the Logistics Cluster.

Some SAG members raised the issue of UNHRD’s introduction of a process to manage aging stock held in the UNHRD hubs. Concerns was raised that the new process may be challenging for smaller partners such as NGOs to implement. SAG members discussed whether there was any role for advocacy by Logistics Cluster. GLCC proposed to flag the concern bilaterally with UNHRD and that UNHRD partners raise the concerns with UNHRD in the UNHRD partner meeting.
4. AOB

- Pierre Tripon has been welcomed as a new member of the SAG and congratulated for his election, together with the re-elected members.
- The SAG members started scheduling the coming SAG monthly calls.
- It has been suggested to increase the length of the SAG meetings reckoning that the current timeframe is inadequate to dive deeply into the discussed topics.

The next GSAG meeting will be scheduled on June 24th at 1400 hrs CET.

Contacts

SAG

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