Minutes approved at the OCA Council meeting on July 15, 2011

Council TC 1th of July 2011

Council members present: Sid, Bruce, Meike, Pim en Wilna (notes)

The chair provides the latest information: since the letter of Bruce of the 29th of June, the OCA MT retreat of July the 6th and 7th has been cancelled, it seems more relevant for Arjan to go to Toronto instead (current info: trip was cancelled). However, it is very clear for OCA-MT and the Council that the OCA partnership, co-management, co-ownership and shared operationality need to be re-discussed. Therefore a new date will be planned for a retreat with Council and MT (retreat of Sept 4th is cancelled due to absence of people).

A brief discussion follows.
Bruce: the return of the desk was a decision of the MSF Canada Board with the GD fully involved. It was a difficult decision, but in order to go ahead with operations and to put an end to the uncertainty, and unhealthy state of affairs, the situation had to be unlocked. MSF Canada remains committed to the OCA. The executive engagement however will be reviewed in Canada. The engagement of the GD in the day to day co-management, on OCA-MT level and in the platforms is under discussion. These processes are perceived as (too) bureaucratic, as cumbersome management. The engagement will certainly change; it is not clear yet how this change will look like.

Sid: the second part of the 29th of June letter raises questions. The status of co-ownership and co-management clearly needs to be re-discussed. There is a clear sense of urgency to reflect on the principles of the OCA partnership as a Council and MT; we should not let evaporate that sense of urgency.
Wilna: agrees with the latter, the challenge is to hold on to this feeling of urgency and to use the momentum.

Given the different agenda's and holiday planning a retreat on a fairly short notice is not possible (Pim).

Meike: the question what will happen with the desk has not been answered yet. The earlier expressed desire to increase the critical mass in Berlin remains (2 desks or no desk position). Hopefully a decision is taken soon.

All participants acknowledge the difficult decision MSF Canada took, and express their respect for the decision MSF Canada took.

Decision/action points
– the need to reflect on the principles of the partnership and re-discuss amongst other issues co-management, co-ownership and shared operationality of OCA
– a process to be designed and preparatory work to be done by OCA-MT and Council members
– a date for a Council/MT retreat will be proposed by the chair
– the OCA-Council (chair) will be kept informed on the developments with regards to the relocation of the MSF-Canada desk