We have three hours on the first day of the annual meeting in Cotonou for a donors meeting. Cheikh Mbacké and Fatimata will moderate the sessions, but we hope all of you will help guide the discussions as well. Considering the relatively abbreviated time and a very busy week otherwise, we’d like to suggest that we have relatively informal discussion sessions and focus on three topics in particular:

- **Review materials and refine talking points for Ministers meeting (1 hour).** We will have finalized the agenda for the Ministers meeting in advance, but would like to use some time at the donors meeting for last minute review, discussion, and any tuning to how those two days are planned and the roles donors will play.

- **Discuss future governance of the Partnership (1 hour).** In Washington in June we began a discussion about whether the Partnership should expand participation in, or otherwise alter, its governance structures, including by bringing countries into leadership positions, formalizing a steering committee, and other ideas. Due to the time difference, our colleagues in France were unable to participate fully in that discussion. With Anne-Charlotte now on-board, we hoped to revisit the discussion and clarify whether any donor institution believes that changes to governance are necessary and, if so, agree on next steps to determine how and whether to make adjustments.

- **Reflect on the donor perspective on three questions that will be discussed at the annual meeting (1 hour).** Margot has graciously agreed to represent the donor contingent on a panel discussion on day three of the annual meeting, alongside a country, CSO, and WAHO representative, to answer three questions:
  - Are there options to increase the value of participation for the nine member countries in the Partnership?
  - Are there options to increase the value of participation for the core donors in the Partnership?
  - What is the best role for implementing partners to play in the Partnership?

Margot will be in touch in advance to ask your opinions and to share what she is considering saying. We’d like to use this session to discuss the donor perspective on these questions as a group and to identify any particular priorities for 2016 and onward that we can share during the meeting.

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We look forward to discussing these topics with you in Benin. If you have suggestions for additional topics for the donor meeting, please let us know by November 23 so we may make appropriate accommodations.
Bios of moderators

Dr. Cheikh Seydil Moctar Mbacke is an independent consultant and advisor recognized in the field of demographic training and research capacity strengthening on population health in Africa. His consulting work benefits a large number of institutions including the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Doris Duke Foundation, the African Development Academy Programs of the Academy of Sciences of the United States, the Population Council, and the INDEPTH Network etc. He serves on the boards of directors of several African institutions with which he shares his large experience in building individual and institutional capacities.

Dr. Mbacke previously spent 14 years at Rockefeller Foundation, where he was successively Program Officer for Population Sciences, Director of the African Programs and finally Vice President for Administration and Regional Programs until 2006. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Statistics from the Institute of Statistics in Paris and a PhD in Demography from University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Fatimata Sy is a Biologist, Nutritionist and Public Health Specialist with over 25 years experiences in international development and public health. She has experience in designing, managing, and evaluating programs in Africa and in coaching governmental entities and civil society organizations, and a proven ability to build consensus for action with donors, multilaterals, NGOs and national and local governments. She has a Masters of Public Health from Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and a University Technical Diploma from Technology Institute of Nancy, France. Mrs. Sy is fluent in French, Wolof and Puular and English.

She is a Director of the Coordination Unit for the Ouagadougou Partnership. Prior to that, she worked at USAID, FHI360 and World Bank.