

Governance and Accountability Initial Recommendations

Prepared by the Governance and Accountability Team; October 21, 2025

In response to the 2024 Executive Council Charge to strengthen and streamline the Partnership, the ad hoc Governance and Accountability Team (GAT) recommends the following to the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) to address its top two identified challenges, "Priority Setting and Decision Making," and "Roles and Responsibilities." These recommendations were generally accepted at the October 9th Management Board meeting, with minor requests for revisions that have been incorporated herein. The GAT has also developed initial considerations for four additional challenges: "Complexity and Structure," "Transparency," "Accountability and Adaptive Management," and "Communication and Coordination," but these recommendations are still in a deliberative stage and thus not presented in this document.

Priority Setting and Decision-Making Recommendations

- 1) A policy steering committee should provide strategic direction for the partnership by establishing and implementing a collaborative priority setting framework.
- 2) Clarified decision-making authority is recommended to enhance operations between each level of the governing structure, particularly when considering how best to streamline outcome implementation actions and delegate decision-making.
- 3) Federal agency coordination should be strengthened at each level of the governing structure, including transparency in decision-making.
- 4) Consensus-based decision making should be re-evaluated to determine whether alternative methods could be more effective at different levels of the partnership, acknowledging the necessary balance between efficiency and egalitarianism.

Role & Responsibility Recommendations

- 1) Minor updates to the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Council are recommended to emphasize their strategic direction, policy setting, and public-facing function.
- 2) Major updates to the roles, responsibilities, and operations of the existing PSC are recommended to strengthen its functions as a body of politically appointed or organizational executives. This recommendation results in a major shift in the focus of the PSC to include strategic direction and priority setting, while focusing less on approval of operational decisions.
- 3) Major updates to the roles and responsibilities of the operational and implementation focused elements of the program are recommended to strengthen workflow and coordination.
- 4) Updates to the roles and operations of the Advisory Committees are recommended to increase their engagement across the partnership, while also working collaboratively amongst themselves.