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UNAIDS/PCB(4)/97.10
30 April 1997

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

Fourth meeting
Geneva, 7-9 April 1997

DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Agenda item 2 - Consideration of the report of the third meeting

1. The PCB adopted the report of its third meeting (Document UNAIDS/PCB(3)/96.10), held on 10-11 June 1996.

Agenda item 3 - Report of the Executive Director and general debate

2. The PCB expressed very strong appreciation for the Programme's many achievements within the short period of its existence and commended the Executive Director and his staff.

3. The PCB expressed its continuing concern about the growing impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the dangers of a growing sense of complacency following the preliminary success of experimental treatment modalities, and the need for increased resources to address the epidemic.

4. The PCB recognized the value to UNAIDS's work of partnerships with the public sector, NGOs and people living with HIV/AIDS, and the business community, and encouraged the Programme to continue its partnership building efforts.

5. The PCB welcomed the Report of the Executive Director (Document UNAIDS/PCB(4)/97.2), appreciating its structure and comprehensive nature, and encouraged that future reports include further emphasis on options and suggestions for addressing issues and challenges.

6. The PCB encouraged the continued active involvement of UNAIDS in the UN reform initiative of the Secretary-General (Executive Committee of the Development Cooperation Group). UNAIDS was encouraged to further refine its methods of work, noting that the UNAIDS concept may be an example for cooperation in other areas of the UN system.

7. The PCB encouraged UN Member States, in particular the PCB members, to strengthen their commitment and fully assume their responsibilities for the success of UNAIDS. The PCB emphasized the

responsibility of Member States to ensure coherent action within the Cosponsors, working through their individual governing bodies and ECOSOC. Through these channels, Cosponsors should be encouraged to be more supportive to the UNAIDS's effort, including to its approved budget programme components, bearing in mind the role of UNAIDS and the comparative strengths of the Cosponsoring Organizations; to increase their HIV/AIDS mainstreaming activities; to provide increased funding for HIV/AIDS activities at country level; and to provide necessary administrative support for the functioning of UN Theme Groups at country level.

8. The PCB encouraged UNAIDS to adopt reporting systems allowing for monitoring of its performance with regard to the 20/20 Initiative in accordance with the Oslo consensus, and participate in discussions on this issue taking place in the relevant ACC mechanisms on coordinated follow-up to international UN conferences.

9. The PCB encouraged the Secretariat to examine and strengthen the information chain at global and regional level between the Secretariat and its Cosponsors, and within the Cosponsors, from the HIV/AIDS Focal Points to relevant global and regional structures.

10. Noting with concern the increasing disparity among and within countries in their access to appropriate drugs and therapies for HIV-related illness, the PCB encouraged UNAIDS to strengthen its advocacy, partnership mobilization, and best practice development in support to improved access to treatment, including antiretroviral therapy, in those countries where the greatest burden of HIV-related illness is borne.

Agenda item 4 - Functioning of UNAIDS at country level including case studies

Agenda item 5 - Criteria for prioritization of UNAIDS support

(Documents UNAIDS/PCB(4)/97.3 and its Addendum 1)

11. The PCB recommended continuing emphasis on further clarification of roles and responsibilities of the Cosponsors and UNAIDS in countries. In particular, the PCB also recommended that consistent guidelines be communicated by the respective headquarters of Cosponsors, bilateral agencies and UNAIDS to their country staff. These guidelines should clarify the role, functions, and expected outputs of the UN Theme Groups, with a view to facilitating joint planning and integrated programme implementation among the UN Theme Group members.

12. The PCB endorsed the purpose of programme development funds as being for activities which are catalytic, strategic, and suitable for replication. The PCB further suggested reconsideration of the nomenclature of the programme development funds to ensure clarity on the purpose of activities to be supported through these funds.

13. The PCB endorsed in principle the need for criteria for prioritization of UNAIDS support at country level, including programme development funds and the deployment of country-based staff, noting its concerns on their application, and requested further refinement based on monitoring and accumulated experience. The PCB further emphasized that prioritization criteria should be as transparent as possible, and requested that these criteria be presented for further discussion at the next regular annual PCB session. The PCB urged that an appropriate balance be struck between opportunity and needs-based criteria, and that efforts should be made to identify more objective criteria, where possible. The PCB also expressed

its concerns that the needs of small countries, small island countries, and countries with low HIV prevalence and those with minimal UN presence also be addressed within the prioritization criteria.

14. The PCB requested periodic summaries in tabular form of UNAIDS's activities at country level. The PCB encouraged that, where appropriate, UN Theme Group membership should expand to relevant UN system organizations beyond the six Cosponsors. UN Theme Groups should also play a more proactive role in effectively supporting national governments in their coordinating roles; strengthening in-country resource mobilization efforts; facilitating partnerships between national programmes and NGOs; actively seeking the inputs of people living with HIV/AIDS; and strengthening efforts to mobilize specific technical expertise from regional and global sources for national programmes.

15. The PCB recommended that regional support activities of UNAIDS should be effectively linked to the existing regional technical support entities of the Cosponsoring Organizations and other regional mechanisms. This included emphasis on exchange of ideas and improved coordination among neighbouring countries. The PCB also requested that progress on the establishment and functioning of UNAIDS's Inter-Country Teams be provided to the next regular annual session of the PCB.

16. Reiterating the basic principle that UNAIDS was not established to serve as a funding agency, the PCB requested that the Secretariat prepare in advance of the next regular annual PCB session an overview analysis of the funding status of national AIDS programmes that have received transitional core financial support from UNAIDS in the current biennium. The overview analysis should provide an indication of the relative magnitude of this support; the success of national programmes in identifying alternative national and international financial resources; and the scope and scale of unmet needs. The analysis should also provide recommendations on how the international community, including the UNAIDS's Cosponsors and bilateral agencies, might more effectively address those needs.

Agenda item 6 - UNAIDS Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

17. The PCB noted with appreciation the Progress Report on UNAIDS Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (Document UNAIDS/PCB(4)/97.5) and the Report of the PCB Working Group on Indicators and Evaluation (Document UNAIDS/PCB(4)/97.5 Add.1). The PCB approved the Secretariat's request for two additional posts, one in the professional category and one in the general service category, and reallocation of an existing professional post, as contained in the Proposed Budget and Workplan for 1998-1999. It requested that the Secretariat present a comprehensive Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan to the PCB at its next regular annual session. The PCB recommended that UNAIDS work closely with the Cosponsors in monitoring and evaluating UN system responses to HIV/AIDS at all levels. It further recommended that, having completed its work, the PCB Working Group on Indicators and Evaluation cease to function and that a broad-based technical advisory group be created, including membership drawn from governmental and non-governmental organizations. The terms of reference of the technical advisory group should enable it to assist in maintaining the momentum established by the PCB Working Group, as well as providing technical support.

Agenda item 7 - Financial and budgetary update for 1996-1997: interim report

18. The PCB expressed its appreciation for the clarity of the financial report presented (Documents UNAIDS/PCB(4)/97.6 and its Addendum), noting that it had been aligned with the Board's recommendations to present separately overhead costs, programme delivery costs, and the cost of posts. It also noted that steps had been taken to establish an operating reserve, as requested by the PCB, and that further recommendations on procedures guiding its operations would be presented to the Board at the next regular annual session. The PCB noted the present size of the operating reserve at potentially US\$ 38 million, representing two-thirds of annual expenditures, and requested the Secretariat with the PCB Working Group on Resource Mobilization to establish, as soon as possible, the basis for determining the appropriate level of the operating reserve.

19. The PCB noted that, while 60% of the total requirements to fund the approved budget of US\$ 120 million for 1996-1997 had been received as at 31 March 1997, there is urgency to ensure that the outstanding funds needed for the Programme are received as soon as possible. While appreciating the efforts that had been made to secure greater funding from non-traditional sources, including the private sector, the PCB also urged that the funding base for the Programme be further strengthened by a larger number of governments contributing a greater amount of resources, with priority to funding activities within the approved budget. The PCB requested the Secretariat to provide a financial and budgetary update, including future resource mobilization prospects, at the next regular annual session of the PCB.

Agenda item 8 - UNAIDS Proposed Programme Budget and Workplan for 1998-1999

20. The PCB expressed appreciation for the transparency in presentation, the structure and quality of the 1998-1999 Proposed Budget and Workplan, and noted the progress made in terms of moving towards a more integrated workplan among UNAIDS and the Cosponsors.

21. The PCB endorsed the proposed budget of US\$ 120 million for 1998-1999 and its allocations for programme components, re-emphasizing the importance of the four cross-cutting themes – human rights, gender, young people, and the greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS.

22. The PCB requested that, in implementing its workplan, the Secretariat give greater priority to strategies related to improving access to care, including access to antiretroviral therapy and to treatment for opportunistic infections, and to broadening the range of approaches for reducing HIV transmission through injecting drug use.

23. In emphasizing the importance of providing as comprehensive a picture as possible of the HIV/AIDS activities of UNAIDS and its Cosponsors, and of continuing to progress towards a more complete integrated workplan in future budget submissions, the PCB also recommended that continued attention be given to further clarifying the respective implementation responsibilities of the Secretariat, the Cosponsors and other partners; and that the narrative detail better correspond to the budget level of the respective programme components. The PCB also encouraged the Secretariat, in preparing its more detailed workplans for programme management, to undertake greater prioritization of the programme components along with their timeframes; to describe objectives, sub-objectives and outputs with greater precision and consistency; and to better link specific programme components, strategic objectives, and performance monitoring and evaluation.

Agenda item 9 - Coordinated Appeal for 1998-1999

24. The PCB noted the Progress Report on the UNAIDS Coordinated Appeal for Supplemental Funded Activities (Document UNAIDS/PCB(4)/97.7) at global and regional level, acknowledging the efforts of the Cosponsors and the Secretariat in developing this important instrument for harmonization, and appreciating the frank description within the Report of the difficulties encountered in establishing the process. The PCB encouraged the Cosponsors and the Secretariat to proceed with the development of the 1998-1999 Coordinated Appeal, with appropriate prioritization of its components within a US\$ 20 million ceiling at global level, and its planned launch in June 1997.

25. The PCB requested that the 1998-1999 Coordinated Appeal documentation clearly indicate: (i) the division of responsibility for implementation among the Cosponsors and the Secretariat; (ii) how specific Coordinated Appeal proposals help to strengthen HIV/AIDS programming at country level; (iii) how proposals are linked to programme component objectives in the UNAIDS workplan; (iv) that proposals emphasize HIV/AIDS activities rather than Cosponsor core support; and (v) that the Coordinated Appeal include country-level activities on an experimental basis. The PCB further requested that the Secretariat distribute quarterly updates on funding status of the Coordinated Appeal, and that the PCB be briefed at its next meeting on overall progress.

Agenda item 10 - Mode of operations of the PCB

26. The PCB amended Article 21 of its Modus Operandi by adding the office of a rapporteur, taking into account fair geographical distribution.

27. The PCB recommended that the UNAIDS's governance structure strike a balance between formal and informal mechanisms. Where appropriate, country visits by PCB members should be encouraged to enable greater understanding of UN Theme Group operations.

28. The PCB endorsed the proposals included within the report on Mode of Operations of the PCB (Document UNAIDS/PCB(4)/97.8). The PCB also recommended that ad hoc and informal meetings be convened to complement the regular annual sessions of the PCB. One ad hoc thematic meeting and four informal information meetings have been proposed for 1997, although the number per year will remain flexible. The PCB requested the Secretariat to provide adequate notice of the meetings to facilitate participation and/or inputs by all members.

29. The PCB recognized the potential value in conducting its future meetings in a different manner to permit more in-depth exchange of ideas and requested the Secretariat, in conjunction with the chairperson and vice-chairperson, and in consultation with PCB members, to look at ways of implementing this for the next meeting.

30. The PCB requested that the chairperson and vice-chairperson present to the PCB a proposal for election procedures of future chairpersons and vice-chairpersons at its next regular annual session.

Agenda item 11 - Next PCB meeting

31. The PCB asked the Secretariat to organize an ad hoc thematic meeting of the PCB in the last quarter of 1997 (most likely November).

Agenda item 12 - Other business

Resource mobilization

32. The PCB endorsed the recommendations of the PCB Working Group on Resource Mobilization (Document UNAIDS/PCB(4)/97.9), emphasizing the need to give priority to non-earmarked contributions to the core budget, while taking note of the limitations within some donor agencies with regard to the earmarking of contributions and the subsequent need for some flexibility.

33. The PCB recommended that UNAIDS strengthen its activities to mobilize resources from non-traditional sources, including the private sector, in the response to HIV/AIDS.

34. The PCB recommended that emphasis be placed on strengthening capacity of national governments, NGOs and networks of people living with HIV/AIDS to mobilize resources.