



PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

Eighth meeting

Geneva, 28-29 June 1999

DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Agenda item 1 – Opening

1. The PCB warmly welcomed the accession in March 1999 of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) as the seventh Cosponsoring Organization of UNAIDS. The joining of UNDCP and the implementation of the Political Declaration on Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction adopted by the UN General Assembly in June 1998 were expected to enhance UNAIDS' efforts in addressing HIV/AIDS and illicit drug use.

Agenda item 2 – Consideration of the reports of the sixth and seventh meetings

2. The PCB adopted the reports of the sixth regular annual session (UNAIDS/PCB(6)/98.12) and the second *ad hoc* thematic meeting (UNAIDS/PCB(7)/98.6) of the PCB.

Agenda item 3 – Report of Executive Director (document UNAIDS/PCB(8)/99.2)

3. The PCB reiterated the importance of primary prevention for HIV, including the development of suitable preventive HIV/AIDS vaccines, and the need for multisectoral action in this regard.

4. The PCB recommended that the Secretariat and the Cosponsors continue efforts to identify strategies to make health care systems more responsive to HIV/AIDS including improved access to care and sustained accessibility to treatment for HIV infection and HIV-related diseases. In that context, the PCB welcomed the WHO "revised drug strategy", and requested that a progress report on access to care be submitted to the PCB at its next meeting.

5. The PCB recognized the increasing importance of the engagement of the education sector in promoting life skills and the role of the media in empowering young people to prevent HIV transmission and contributing to an environment free of stigmatization. The PCB therefore requested the Secretariat and the Cosponsors, in particular UNESCO, to document the contribution of the education sector to mitigating the impact of the epidemic and to analyse the impact of HIV/AIDS on the development of the education sector, especially access to schooling. The PCB further requested that a progress report in that regard be submitted at its next meeting.

6. The PCB urged Member States to ensure that HIV/AIDS was included on the agenda of the UNESCO General Conference in November 1999.

7. The PCB recommended that the Secretariat continue to provide support for the broadening of membership of the UN Theme Groups on HIV/AIDS and to ensure that the Groups operate effectively and interact transparently with governments, recognizing national strategies and priorities. The Cosponsors and the Secretariat should continue to take measures to improve and monitor the effectiveness of the Theme Groups, and where functional Theme Groups do not exist, support should be given to the development of effective alternatives.

8. The PCB recommended that the Secretariat include Central America and the Caribbean as priority regions for strategic support under special regional initiatives, together with the African, Eastern European and Asian regional efforts, in conformity with the criteria developed by the Secretariat and endorsed by the PCB.

9. The PCB encouraged Member States, the Secretariat and the Cosponsors to participate actively in the review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+5), of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing+5) and of the follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen+5) in order to ensure consistency with new HIV/AIDS priorities and strategies.

10. The PCB recommended that, commencing in 2001, a single document be prepared to meet reporting requirements previously covered by the biennial progress report to the PCB and the biennial report to ECOSOC on HIV/AIDS, and that the ECOSOC Secretariat be advised of that recommendation.

Global strategy

11. The PCB encouraged the Secretariat and the Cosponsors to intensify their efforts towards developing a UN System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS for the years 2001-2005, detailing how the UN system will articulate a global strategy and support countries to intensify their national responses.

12. The PCB requested an update on the development of the UN System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS at its next regular annual session and a full discussion at a PCB thematic meeting to be held in late 2000.

13. The PCB further encouraged the Cosponsors to develop their institutional strategies, with balanced emphasis on priority regions, and to articulate their specific objectives, targets and plans to achieve those objectives.

14. The PCB encouraged the Secretariat and the Cosponsors to make use of planned regional fora, global conferences and governing bodies to consult broadly with governments and NGOs in the development of the UN System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS. The PCB further encouraged interested countries to actively support and facilitate the consultation process.

Agenda item 4 – UNAIDS Unified Budget and Workplan for 2000-2001

15. The PCB approved the UNAIDS unified budget and workplan for 2000-2001 at a level of US\$ 140 million, as set out in document UNAIDS/UWB/2000-01.
16. The PCB commended the Secretariat and the Cosponsors on the success achieved in the complex process of developing a unified budget and workplan presented in a transparent fashion. It was seen as a useful approach for budgeting in the context of UN reform. Further consolidation and refinement of joint planning and budgeting were considered desirable.
17. The PCB drew attention to UN General Assembly resolution 50/270, which requests greater sustainability and consistency on the part of Member States in relation to contributions to programmes and funds.
18. The PCB encouraged Member States to ensure that contributions are sufficient to meet the US\$140 million approved budget level and to review possibilities for two-year pledges corresponding to the biennial budget cycle.
19. The PCB urged Member States to provide written notification of forthcoming contributions at the earliest opportunity, and to make every effort to transfer funds as early as possible in the biennium.
20. The PCB urged countries affected by HIV/AIDS to enhance their efforts, including their financial commitments, in order to ensure the sustainability of the national response to HIV/AIDS.
21. The PCB requested the Secretariat and the Cosponsors, in accordance with the principles of the Memorandum of Understanding on a Joint and Cosponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, to seek funds for global and regional level activities within the unified budget and workplan, and urged the Secretariat and the Cosponsors to establish a joint resource mobilization strategy in support of the unified budget. It authorized the Secretariat, should resources beyond the approved level of US\$140 million become available, to finance additional activities, including the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa, within the framework of the unified budget and workplan, and in consultation with the CCO and the PCB Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, recognizing that there are significant additional needs, particularly at regional level. It further proposed that any shortfall be accommodated through proportionate reductions in the substantive activities of the Cosponsors and the Secretariat alike.
22. The PCB urged Member States, the Secretariat and the Cosponsors to seek synergy between bilateral and multilateral contributions within the framework of national HIV/AIDS strategies.
23. The PCB urged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to refine the indicators within the workplan; to establish baselines where possible; and, in particular, to develop qualitative indicators where appropriate.
24. The PCB encouraged the Cosponsors to continue to take steps to improve financial reporting along comparable formats on HIV/AIDS-related activities financed within their

core/regular budgets.

Agenda item 5 – Financial and Budgetary Update

5.1 – Unaudited Interim Financial Management Information on the 1998-1999 biennium

25. The PCB took note of the interim financial information on the 1998-1999 financial status contained in document UNAIDS/PCB(8)/99.3.

5.2 – UNAIDS Operating Reserve Fund

26. Taking into consideration the frequent but limited borrowing from the Operating Reserve Fund (ORF) and the improvement of the schedule of payment of contributions by governments and other donors, the PCB endorsed the re-evaluation of the level of the ORF from US\$ 33 million to US\$ 25 million, as proposed in document UNAIDS/PCB(8)/99.4. The new ceiling of the ORF was considered adequate to meet Programme funding obligations as well as the WHO Financial Rules regarding Secretariat salaries.

27. The PCB further approved the proposal to utilize the US\$ 8 million thus made available to respond, in consultation with UN Theme Groups on HIV/AIDS, to emerging needs in countries most affected by the epidemic, within the framework of the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa.

Agenda item 6 – International Partnership against AIDS in Africa (document UNAIDS/PCB(8)/99.5)

28. The PCB declared the HIV/AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa as a development crisis that has become a major obstacle for economic and social development and has already reversed many of the development gains of the last several decades in parts of the region.

29. The PCB endorsed the concept and principles of the International Partnership against HIV/AIDS in Africa and requested the Executive Director to ask the Secretary-General to bring the HIV/AIDS crisis and the urgent need for an intensified response to ECOSOC and the General Assembly.

30. The PCB emphasized that the Partnership should help strengthen national capacities to save the lives of millions by halting the spread of HIV and sharply reducing its devastating impact on human suffering and social and economic development. The PCB further stressed that the Partnership should be based on respect for human rights, including the principle of non-discrimination.

31. While recognizing that HIV/AIDS requires a significant increase in resources for sub-Saharan Africa, the PCB also noted the need for governments and the international community to continue to address the situation in other regions.

32. The PCB requested:

- African governments to take a strong advocacy role on HIV/AIDS, organizing an effective multisectoral response in their countries, committing more of their own resources to respond to HIV/AIDS, and to invite other partners to support these efforts;
- governments outside Africa to develop their individual plans describing how they will commit increased resources to HIV/AIDS in Africa, identify and mobilize non-traditional sources of funding, engage other partners, and harmonize their efforts through a common framework to be established within the Partnership;
- the Cosponsors and the Secretariat to continue the dialogue with African governments, international development agencies, people living with HIV/AIDS, NGOs, the private sector and other concerned partners to further develop and refine the Partnership;
- the Secretariat and the Cosponsors to work together with other partners at the national and regional level to facilitate the implementation of the Partnership, building on existing structures, in particular the expanded Theme Groups;
- the Secretariat and the Cosponsors, with other partners, to identify mechanisms for the timely transfer of resources, including South-South cooperation, mobilized in support of the implementation of the Partnership; and,
- the Secretariat to report back on a regular basis to the PCB and other partners on the progress made in advancing the Partnership.

33. The PCB expressed its appreciation for the efforts made by the Cosponsors and the Secretariat to involve a broad range of actors and sectors in the on-going process of developing the Partnership.

34. The PCB encouraged the Secretariat, in consultation with the Cosponsors and other partners, to continue developing a methodology to calculate the overall cost of responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa and formulate a related resource mobilization strategy, and to establish a timetable for the implementation of the Partnership.

Agenda item 7 – UNAIDS and UN response at country level

7.1 – Prioritization of support by UNAIDS Secretariat (document UNAIDS/PCB(8)/99.6)

35. The PCB recommended that the Secretariat continue its efforts in prioritizing support to countries and that it provide the PCB with a periodic update on the categorization of countries.

Agenda item 8 – Next PCB Meeting

36. The PCB recommended that its next meeting take place on 25 and 26 May 2000, in Geneva.