



Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNAIDS

UNICEF • UNDP • UNFPA • UNDCP
UNESCO • WHO • WORLD BANK

UNAIDS/PCB(9)/00.8 RECS

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PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

Ninth meeting

Geneva, 25-26 May 2000

DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Agenda item 1 – Opening

1. The PCB endorsed the addition of an agenda item on the five-year evaluation under “Other business”.

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

2. The PCB adopted the report of the eighth regular annual session (UNAIDS/PCB(8)/99.7).

Agenda item 3 - Report of the Executive Director, 1998-1999 (document UNAIDS/PCB(9)/00.2)

3. The PCB took note of the report of the Executive Director. It welcomed the confirmation of the Executive Director that future reports will be more analytical, shorter and identify successes and failures.

4. The PCB recommended:

- the further strengthening and maintaining of political mobilization against the epidemic;
- the strengthening and acceleration of efforts to implement well coordinated national responses, working with a wider range of partners;
- support to the regional and subregional responses on HIV/AIDS;
- that UNAIDS continues its development as knowledge-based and communication-driven;
- decentralisation of efforts to ensure a more broad-based and coordinated response by all actors, including Theme Groups.

5. The PCB supported the country focus for UNAIDS, including the emphasis on the development and implementation of national and regional strategic plans and resource mobilization. This support should be provided through all available channels,

particularly through the expanded UN Theme Groups and the integrated, multisectoral work plans developed at country level.

6. The PCB recommended mobilizing substantially more financial resources for national, regional and subregional AIDS programmes, and other partners, in developing countries and to bring HIV/AIDS fully into the mainstream development agenda. The promising new approaches to resource mobilization and mainstreaming of AIDS, such as integrating AIDS activities in a range of development programmes, the Highly Indebted Poor Country initiative (HIPC), Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and poverty reduction strategies, and pursuing resources available through foundations and the private sector, should be vigorously pursued. To achieve success:

- Traditional and non-traditional donors are strongly encouraged to financially support developing countries in the development and implementation of the expanded responses to HIV/AIDS; in this context south-south cooperation is also encouraged;
- National Governments should increase their own domestic financial allocations to their national HIV/AIDS plans, and consider using debt relief and other financing instruments including basic public budget support. Every effort should be made to channel resources in support of community responses to HIV/AIDS;
- International Financial Institutions, donors, and national governments should be further encouraged to give prominence to HIV/AIDS in PRSPs, poverty reduction strategies and HIPC agreements;
- UNAIDS Cosponsors and other UN organizations should raise their own financial allocations for AIDS and increase their advocacy and technical support to developing countries for expanded resource mobilization and for inclusion of HIV/AIDS goals and indicators in country-based programming mechanisms including the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the Common Country Assessment (CCA), poverty reduction strategies including PRSPs and HIPC agreements through an integrated planning process among these organizations;
- The UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors must intensify their current efforts in advocacy, facilitation, and sharing of information and experience in the areas of financial resource mobilization including from foundations and the private sector, and mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS in the development agenda;
- NGOs, especially national NGOs in developing countries, should play an active and participatory role in the development of country poverty strategies, including PRSPs and implementing locally-managed AIDS responses.

Prevention

7. The PCB recommended that governments, bilateral partners, NGOs and UNAIDS support the acceleration of implementation of key strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention in all affected areas, through country-based, regional and global efforts. In this context, it was recommended that support for research on microbicides and vaccines, including all sub-types relevant for developing countries, be continued.

Access to Care

8. The PCB referred to the recommendations contained in the World Health Assembly resolution WHA53.14 “HIV/AIDS: confronting the epidemic”, of the Ouagadougou Commitment to Action of the Organisation for African Unity Ministers of Health, and of the Declaration of African Ministers of Health to the World Health Assembly. The PCB welcomed the progress UNAIDS made with regard to access to care and support and encouraged further efforts in this area.

9. The PCB recommended that UNAIDS should identify a process whereby the multiple technical issues surrounding care and treatment for persons living with HIV/AIDS are explored. These issues include the full range of necessary access, treatment and monitoring activities. The UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors should include other relevant organizations in this process.

10. The PCB also noted that a proper balance be maintained between prevention and care so one is not addressed to the detriment of the other.

11. The PCB recommended that UNAIDS gives high priority to the analysis of the ongoing pilot projects in four countries, Uganda, Chile, Côte d’Ivoire and Viet Nam (the Drug Access Initiative) and to patient access to drugs in general.

12. In this regard it welcomed the negotiations the UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors are undertaking with the pharmaceutical industry to reduce antiretroviral (ARV) prices and that of drugs for the treatment of opportunistic infections. It encouraged UNAIDS to include a larger number of pharmaceutical companies in the negotiations, to extend the range of medicines and other relevant commodities for prevention and care to ensure a transparent process. The PCB welcomed the establishment of a contact group to be convened by the UNAIDS Secretariat and its Cosponsors, involving interested governments, selected on a regional/subregional basis, NGOs and donors with members of the PCB playing an important role. These negotiations should complement broader strategies to promote the sustainable access to drugs, such as the encouragement of local manufacturing and import practices consistent with national laws and international agreements acceded to. It further encouraged UNAIDS to actively support countries in the development, implementation and financing of care strategies that enhance the overall effectiveness and sustainability of national responses to HIV/AIDS such as clinical guidelines, drug administrative and control management, diagnostic infrastructure and follow-up mechanisms.

13. The PCB took note of a proposal to organize a meeting under United Nations auspices on access to care for HIV/AIDS. In this respect, the feasibility of such a meeting should be further analyzed in the appropriate United Nations fora.

14. The UNAIDS Secretariat should, in collaboration with Cosponsors and other international organizations, work with countries at their request, in regularly updating databases in order to provide member states with information on prices of HIV-related drugs.

Monitoring and Evaluation

15. The PCB welcomed the update on monitoring and evaluation annexed to the Report of the Executive Director, including the proposed steps for the Five Year Evaluation of UNAIDS.

16. The PCB noted that the Five Year Evaluation is to include the efforts of the Secretariat, the Cosponsors, the CCO and the PCB and requested that it be completed within a year from initiation and presented to the following meeting of the PCB.

17. The PCB encouraged its members to forward written comments to the Secretariat on Conference Room paper 1 and further encouraged the Secretariat to consult broadly on the terms of reference for the evaluation through the Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group (MERG), including at its meeting in August 2000, and encouraged Cosponsors and PCB members to strengthen their participation in the MERG for that purpose.

18. The PCB emphasized the importance of objectivity in the design, implementation and appearance of the evaluation process. The PCB further emphasized the need to conduct the evaluation on a timely basis in order to properly inform the global strategy development process; to make the design as straightforward as possible; and to minimize the staff demands on the Secretariat.

19. The PCB requested that the Secretariat provide an update on the plan for the information of the PCB at the time of the December 2000 Thematic Meeting.

Agenda item 4 - Report by the Chair of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations and discussion with Cosponsors

20. The PCB requested Cosponsors to give higher priority to HIV/AIDS in their respective organizational plans and to increase resources for HIV/AIDS programming at all levels.

21. The PCB requested that the work of Cosponsors focus on a broad-based agenda of prevention and care and recommended a focus across different development sectors.

22. The PCB requested a better coordination between the Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), requesting also that the Theme Groups on HIV/AIDS be involved in both these processes.

Agenda item 5 - Report by the NGO representative

23. The PCB noted the recommendations proposed by the NGO representatives as follows:

- Regional recommendations:
 - Latin America and the Caribbean: efforts should be focused on targeted prevention, attention and care for the most vulnerable populations, including access to antiretroviral drugs and on promotion of human rights and anti-discrimination legislation for persons living with HIV and AIDS;
 - Asia and Pacific: denial of the situation and lack of political will is leading to lack of action in some countries; coherent prevention, attention and care efforts in the region must focus on the needs of the populations most affected;
 - Africa: the issue of prevention of mother-to-child transmission should be a priority and concrete steps must be taken immediately to care for orphaned children;
 - North America: more research on vaccine and microbicide development, and pragmatic and effective harm reduction programmes are urgently needed;
 - Europe: the promotion of human rights of all populations particularly vulnerable to HIV/AIDS (including injection drug users, inmates, migrants, non-legal residents, men who have sex with men, and sex workers) is needed.

- Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA) recommendations:
 - that UNAIDS adopt an affirmative employment policy to ensure the engagement of more people with HIV within the programme;
 - that UNAIDS and the Cosponsors address the issue of equity in health care for all employees with HIV;
 - that UNAIDS treat GIPA as a priority and that it be integrated across all aspects of its work. This would include:
 - advocating for more initiatives on GIPA at all levels;
 - encouraging those countries that have not signed the Paris Declaration to do so;
 - developing a plan of action for increasing GIPA initiatives globally; and
 - dialogue with the Cosponsors to implement GIPA.

Agenda item 6 - Framework for the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa (IPAA) (document UNAIDS/PCB(9)/00.4)

24. The PCB congratulated the UNAIDS Secretariat for leading a broad consultation process on the Framework for Action, involving all partners.
25. The PCB took note of the substantial progress made in several countries in operationalising the IPAA.
26. The PCB endorsed the Framework for Action as the strategy of the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa for all five constituencies. It will be further refined and revised as necessary, based on lessons learned. A shorter version will be available in the near future.

27. The PCB called upon all partners for the immediate implementation of the Framework and hereby:

- stressed the African ownership and leadership of the Partnership at all levels: government priorities should drive the action; and national action plans should be based on local community priorities and contexts;
- reiterated the focus of the Partnership on an intensified response to HIV/AIDS at country level;
- requested all partners to ensure full communication within and among their organizations, especially at country level;
- urges all partners to scale up successful actions in a coordinated way and to address the political, institutional and managerial challenges in doing so;
- requested all partners to mobilize additional technical, financial and human resources and to establish resource transfer mechanisms to local communities.

28. In order to facilitate coordinated planning at the country and subregional levels, the PCB recommended that UNAIDS, its Cosponsors, other UN agencies and donor governments disclose in a timely manner the extent of the resources available for such activities.

29. The PCB recommended that the UNAIDS Secretariat:

- continues the coordination and facilitation of the IPAA;
- sets up a monitoring and evaluation system, based on existing mechanisms in order to measure the progress of the IPAA;
- reports on progress by countries at national, regional/subregional and local levels;
- finalizes the work on a costing exercise for the implementation of the framework for action;
- provides data on the status of the financial contributions of partners to the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa;
- continues its work to coordinate the mainstreaming of AIDS in key development instruments including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), debt relief (HIPC-Initiative), Sector Wide Approach Programmes (SWAPS) and Social Development Funds;
- in close collaboration with representatives from the five constituencies develop a plan for the operationalization of the framework, taking into account the need for human and financial resources;
- organizes a stakeholder meeting with all five constituencies as soon as possible.

Agenda item 7 - HIV/AIDS and the Education Sector (document UNAIDS/PCB(9)/00.3)

30. The PCB welcomed the document on HIV/AIDS and the Education Sector and endorsed the process for developing a coordinated strategy in the education sector to support and strengthen regional and national responses. The PCB recommended the following:

- 30.1 That UNAIDS in cooperation with Cosponsors strengthen advocacy for:
- mobilization of resources for the education sector to reinforce its capacity in general and more specifically to build up a more proactive role in HIV prevention and AIDS impact alleviation;
 - integration of AIDS education in formal and nonformal programmes carried out not only by the education sector but also by other development sectors. In addition, documentation of:
 - culturally appropriate and age-adapted best practices;
 - effective contributions of young people in AIDS education, especially as peer educators;
 - sensitization and mobilization of those responsible for the educational sector in countries on issues related to sexuality and prevention of HIV/AIDS as education concerns, so that they be fully accepted as the responsibility of the educational sector;
 - addressing socio-cultural obstacles to implementation of comprehensive drug and sexuality education programmes.
- 30.2 That the process endorsed above be expanded in the following ways:
- broaden the scope and composition of the UNAIDS Interagency Working Group on Education to include other key players and agencies involved in formal and nonformal AIDS and sexuality education programmes, and link its efforts to existing subregional, regional, and other informal global structures and mechanisms;
 - highlight the positive role of the education sector as an HIV/AIDS prevention platform, thereby addressing the diversity of needs of a full range of countries, including those less affected;
 - meet the special circumstances and needs of population groups, such as out-of-school adolescents, the girl child, orphans, street children, mentally disabled and drug users, which are not reached by the formal education system;
 - engage the involvement and participation of civil society groups, particularly NGOs and local community leaders, in developing and implementing a more innovative and expanded response of the education sector.
- 30.3 Highlight the need to reduce discriminatory environments and practices towards education personnel and pupils affected by HIV. For this purpose, the strengthening of voluntary counselling and testing services should be one strategy.

Agenda item 8 - Status of the development of the Global Strategy (document UNAIDS/PCB(9)/00.5)

31. The PCB welcomed the update on the development of the Global Strategy Framework and urged the Secretariat, Cosponsors and other partners to accelerate and intensify efforts to finalize the Framework for discussion at the Thematic PCB meeting in December 2000, and take appropriate steps to ensure that it is well reflected in the development of the UN System Strategic Plan 2001-2005.

32. The PCB urged its members to fully engage in consultations through existing fora - including regional and sub-regional fora - to finalize the Global Strategy Framework.

33. The PCB reaffirmed its request to the Secretariat to proceed with the development of the UN System Strategic Plan 2001-2005 in broad consultation with UN system and other partners. The PCB endorsed the proposed process and requested the Secretariat to table a working draft of the elaborated UN System Strategic Plan for discussion at its December 2000 Thematic meeting.

34. Consistent with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 1999/36 of 28/97/99, the PCB urged Cosponsors to complete the development of their institutional strategies, and to submit to their governing bodies their proposed contribution to the United Nations System Strategic Plan 2001-2005.

35. The PCB noted the importance of strategic information on national and donor responses to AIDS to assist policy makers allocate scarce resources, and urged the Secretariat to strengthen its capacity to collate and analyze such information.

Agenda item 9 - Financial and Budgetary Updates (document UNAIDS/PCB(9)/00.6)

36. The PCB examined and took note of the financial report and audited financial statement for the financial period from 1 January 1998 to 31 December 1999 and the unqualified report to the PCB of the external auditors. It took note of the financial update for the beginning of 2000 and recognized the significance of the UNAIDS Operating Reserve Fund.

37. Recalling its recommendation at its regular meeting in June 1999, the PCB urged Member States to provide full funding for the UNAIDS 2000-2001 Unified Budget and Workplan. Countries are also encouraged to make multi-year pledges to UNAIDS in order to increase the predictability of resources during the biennium.

38. The PCB urged Member States to transfer funds as early as possible in the biennium to ensure adequate cash flow and avoid disruption of activities.

39. The PCB acknowledged the role of the Geneva-based Permanent Missions to the United Nations in advocating, among other things, full funding of the 2000-2001 Unified Budget and Workplan.

40. The PCB encouraged all countries to intensify efforts and to ensure adequate funding of comprehensive, multisectoral responses to the epidemic at all levels.

Agenda item 10 - Next PCB Meeting

41. The PCB recommended that its next meeting take place in Brazil on 14 and 15 December 2000, with field visits on 13 December. The PCB further confirmed that the main theme on the agenda would be the Global Strategy Framework and the UN System Strategic Plan, 2001-2005.