



PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

**Third *ad hoc* thematic meeting
Rio de Janeiro, 14-15 December 2000**

DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. The PCB expressed its appreciation to the Ministry of Health of the Government of Brazil for hosting the meeting and providing excellent support.

The Brazilian response

2. The PCB welcomed the presentations on the Brazilian response to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic, noting the Government's efforts to:

- i. provide free and universal access to care and antiretroviral therapy;
- ii. mainstream HIV/AIDS into all basic health care and other health programmes;
- iii. promote access to male and female condoms and syringes, mainly for low income populations;
- iv. prioritize the expansion of prevention in all high-risk populations, including intravenous drug users, prisoners, street children, men who have sex with men, sex workers; and
- v. increase the level of participation of civil society, emphasizing the broadening of the social involvement in the national response to the epidemic.

The PCB also noted the dynamism of the Horizontal Technical Cooperation Group as well as the strong commitment of the Parliamentary Group for AIDS in Brazil.

Agenda Item 1.1 – Adoption of provisional agenda (document UNAIDS/PCB (10)/00.1)

3. The PCB adopted the agenda.

Agenda Item 1.2 – Election of Rapporteur

4. The PCB agreed that Barbados, the Rapporteur elected at the ninth meeting, should also serve as Rapporteur for the third *ad hoc* thematic meeting.

Agenda Item 1.3 – Report of the Executive Director (document UNAIDS/PCB(10)/00.2)

5. The PCB took note with appreciation of the report of the Executive Director. The following observations and recommendations were made:
- i. The PCB recognized the need to integrate the care and prevention agendas. On prevention it urged UNAIDS¹ and Member States to commit to stronger efforts on the unfinished agenda, maintaining a clear focus on providing for the needs of children and young people. Attention must also be paid to addressing the needs of men who have sex with men, injecting drug users, and other populations at heightened risk. Recognizing the growing importance of the care and treatment agendas, the PCB encouraged UNAIDS to maintain a broad-based approach, including prevention of mother-to-child transmission, access to condoms and vaccine development. It further recommended that UNAIDS should not focus only on anti-retrovirals, but should address care within the context of the general development of health systems, and increase the options for access to affordable treatment, including generics, available to governments.
 - ii. The PCB took note of increasing resource flows, recognizing the gaps between needs and resources, and recommended that UNAIDS track and report on these commitments. It urged UNAIDS to continue to provide technical support and facilitation to developing countries engaged in poverty reduction strategies, such as production of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) and the Highly-Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, and to assist in mobilizing additional resources, both domestic and international, for tackling HIV/AIDS.
 - iii. The PCB recognized that some progress is being made under the International Partnership Against AIDS in Africa (IPAA), particularly in national leadership, and encouraged Member States to continue to work within the IPAA framework, to ensure coordination and consistency in supporting national processes. It strongly urged UNAIDS to maintain momentum and a sense of urgency in implementing action under the IPAA. It noted that sustained political will and national commitment contributed to success and to the prospects for increased donor support.
 - iv. The PCB noted the urgency of scaling up pilot projects/services that prove to be effective, expanding them into national programmes complemented with regional initiatives. It urged UNAIDS to play its part in facilitating this process.
 - v. The PCB noted the continuing variance in performance of United Nations Theme Groups on HIV/AIDS, and emphasized the importance of a coordinated and consistent response of the UN system at country level, with the meaningful inclusion of the civil society and people living with HIV/AIDS. The sustained improvement of Theme Group performance, in particular in relations to the availability and disbursement of programme acceleration funds requires urgent attention.

¹ UNAIDS Secretariat and the seven Cosponsors

Agenda Item 1.4 – Report by the Chairperson of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations

6. The PCB noted with appreciation the report made on behalf of the UNAIDS Cosponsors by the current Chair of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations and the efforts made by each of the cosponsoring organizations to scale up their contribution to the global response to HIV/AIDS. The PCB recommended that these efforts be further enhanced, emphasizing the need for greater coordination and result-oriented action through the Theme Groups in countries.

Agenda Item 1.5 – Report by the NGO representative

7. The PCB took note of the report of the NGO representative and the concerns expressed therein, such as the impact of political instability and changes. It noted the NGO recommendation that the role of laws and treaties concerning illicit drugs, and their relationship to the spread of HIV, be examined by UNAIDS and discussed at the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS.

8. The PCB took note of the request of the World Bank for NGOs to monitor the Multi-country AIDS Project (MAP), in particular the emergency HIV/AIDS fund which channels resources specifically to community and NGO-based activities, and to report back to the Bank.

Agenda Item 2 – Debriefing of the field visits

9. The PCB expressed appreciation to the Ministry of Health of the Government of Brazil for the excellent organization of the field visits, which illustrated the achievements and results of the Brazilian National Programme on STD/AIDS.

Agenda Item 3 – Framework for Global Leadership on HIV/AIDS (document UNAIDS/PCB (10)/00.3)

10. The PCB expressed its appreciation for the thorough and participatory process followed by UNAIDS in preparing the Strategic Framework for Global Leadership on HIV/AIDS.

11. The PCB endorsed the Strategic Framework for Global Leadership on HIV/AIDS, affirming that its guiding principles, expanded response approach and leadership commitments are universally applicable and should be rapidly translated into action at country level.

12. The PCB encouraged Member States to make use of the framework to elaborate common goals and formulate specific commitments at the highest levels, including in their role as Members of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on HIV/AIDS and as representatives on the governing bodies of cosponsoring organizations.

13. The PCB recommended that UNAIDS ensure widespread dissemination of the Framework in a number of languages and encourage its use to guide the further development of strategic processes within regions, priority sectors, and thematic areas in support of country efforts.

14. The PCB requested the Secretariat to refine the text of the Framework, incorporating the comments of PCB members and observers, and emphasizing urgency and clarity in language so that it is accessible to the widest possible audience.

Agenda Item 4.1 – Five-Year Evaluation of UNAIDS (document UNAIDS/PCB (10)/00.4)

15. The PCB expressed appreciation to the Chair for its efforts in appointing the Evaluation Supervisory Panel (ESP) and took note of the membership of the ESP.

16. The PCB further urged the ESP to solicit the inputs of stakeholders at key stages during the evaluation, as described in the Mandate, including governments, people living with HIV/AIDS and Theme Group Members.

17. The PCB noted the importance of providing adequate funding for the evaluation and encouraged interested parties to make additional financial and/or in-kind resources available for this purpose. It also requested interested delegations to be in direct contact with the ESP Chair to discuss their in-kind support of the evaluation process.

Agenda Item 4.2 – United Nations System Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS 2001-2005
(Document UNAIDS/PCB (10)/00.5)

18. The PCB expressed its strong appreciation of the progress report on the development of the UN System Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS for 2001-2005 (UNAIDS/PCB/(10)/00.5) and of the transparency and unprecedented involvement in the process of developing the Strategic Plan, including through access to the web for PCB members.

19. It recommended that the Secretariat, Cosponsors and other organizations of the United Nations system finalize their contributions to the United Nations System Strategic Plan for review at the next regular meeting of the PCB in 2001.

20. The PCB stressed that the Strategic Plan should be more than the sum of the contributions of the Secretariat, Cosponsors and other UN organizations, demonstrating a clear overall strategic vision and the respective roles, responsibilities and comparative advantages of different organizations. The PCB also noted that additional resources and capacities would need to be built within the Cosponsors and the Secretariat to enable the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

21. The PCB encouraged the Secretariat, the Cosponsors and other UN organizations to continue to work together to identify gaps and priority areas in the UN system support to country responses and to jointly define roles and responsibilities to address those gaps as part of the finalization of the Strategic Plan.

22. The PCB recommended that the UN System Strategic Plan include a monitoring and evaluation component to track progress and ensure accountability.

Agenda Item 4.3 – United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS

23. The PCB noted that the UN General Assembly Session on HIV/AIDS provides a unique opportunity to reaffirm and strengthen global commitment to intensify action against HIV/AIDS. In order to enrich and guide the discussions and outcomes, it called for the active participation at the highest level, of governments, UN system and other international organizations, NGOs and Foundations in the preparatory processes.

24. The PCB recommends that governments consider the request of the NGO representative to include representatives of the NGO community and of persons living with HIV/AIDS on their delegations to the Special Session.

25. The PCB also recommends that the Strategic Framework for Global Leadership on HIV/AIDS be used to guide the preparatory processes of the Special Session.

Agenda Item 5 – Next PCB meeting

26. Two possible dates for the eleventh meeting of the PCB were proposed: 29-31 May 2001 and 4-6 July 2001. The PCB expressed a preference for the dates in May 2001. However, recognizing the pressure this places on the Secretariat, the PCB requested the Executive Director of UNAIDS to identify dates in June 2001, acknowledging that the next meeting of the PCB must be held before the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS. The Chairperson, in consultation with the Vice-Chairperson, will take a decision on the final dates of the PCB and inform all PCB members in writing before 31 January 2001.

Agenda Item 6 – Other business

27. As the governing board of UNAIDS, it is the responsibility of the PCB to help the Secretariat and Cosponsors focus their energies in the areas and at the levels where they will make the most difference. In the view of the PCB, this is clearly at country level.

28. Thus, while the PCB will continue to support selected international meetings and initiatives, it recommended that the report of this meeting reflect its collective concern that the initiatives for which UNAIDS is expected to be the driving force are: limited in number; strategic in focus; and designed to support broader, more effective country level action.