



24 June 2004

PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

Fifteenth meeting
Geneva, 23–24 June 2004

DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Agenda item 1.1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the provisional agenda

1. The Programme Coordinating Board adopted the provisional agenda.

Agenda item 1.2: Election of Officers

2. Canada was elected as Chair, Brazil as Vice-Chair and Kenya as Rapporteur of the 15th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board.

Agenda item 1.3: Consideration of the report of the fourteenth meeting

3. The Programme Coordinating Board adopted the report of the 14th meeting.

Agenda item 1.4: Report of the Executive Director

4. The Programme Coordinating Board notes with satisfaction the achievements of UNAIDS during the last biennium.
5. Noting with concern the many continuing challenges for the response to AIDS and for UNAIDS, the Programme Coordinating Board:

5.1 supports UNAIDS efforts to initiate and strengthen policy work and country analysis generating aggregate indicators and planning to address the urgent problem of the insufficient capacity (i.e., institutional and human resources) of many countries to mount comprehensive and sustained responses to AIDS;

5.2 further supports UNAIDS efforts to promote innovative and “exceptional” policy options for AIDS funding, including debt-relief, a review of the impact of medium-term expenditure frameworks and fiscal ceilings on investments in AIDS programmes, and the capacity of countries to exploit fully the opportunities offered to them within global trade rules;

5.3 encourages UNAIDS leadership to promote the implementation of the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health as well as supporting countries to utilise the flexibilities permitted by the TRIPS Agreement in their internal regulations;

5.4 endorses the need for a comprehensive gender-balanced response to AIDS, incorporating HIV prevention, treatment and impact alleviation, in particular stigma and discrimination, and, in this regard, supports UNAIDS to lead in the development of a revitalized prevention strategy, with a clear link to sexual and reproductive health and basic health services, that promotes prevention in combination with treatment; and

5.5 recognizing the importance of effective, sustainable and equitable health systems in the multisectoral response to HIV/AIDS, encourages UNAIDS to support countries in strengthening their health systems, and the development of human resource capacity.

6. Noting the more complex environment in which UNAIDS must operate and the need to continue to reinforce its joint and innovative nature, the Programme Coordinating Board:

6.1 supports the strengthened capacity of the UNAIDS Secretariat, particularly at country level, through the placement of qualified staff in key areas (i.e., facilitation, monitoring and evaluation, social mobilization, brokering partnerships and resource tracking and mobilization), a clarification on the Secretariat functions and position within the United Nations Resident Coordinator System, and effective inclusion of the UNAIDS Country Coordinator as a member of the United Nations Country Team to implement joint programming; it is vital that the individual cosponsors in each country focus on their value added contribution and comparative advantage;

6.2 further supports the strengthening of performance-based management by the UNAIDS Secretariat through appropriate procedures, including the focus on results-based budgeting, the introduction of competency-based recruitment and training, implementation of decentralized management, introduction of a mobility and rotation policy and continued progress in improving workplace policies on HIV/AIDS;

6.3 encourages the establishment through UNAIDS of Technical Support Facilities, including regional technical assistance networks to help countries identify key technical assistance providers and access high quality technical assistance;

6.4 further encourages UNAIDS to advocate that technical assistance providers, including the United Nations System, other public and private sector partners, including civil society and NGOs are adequately financed to meet the scale of demand; and

6.5 recognizes the essential role of civil society in the multisectoral response to HIV/AIDS, and requests UNAIDS, in partnership with civil society representatives, to establish indicators to more formally identify, document, and evaluate best practices of civil society. These indicators should relate to the goals of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, the 'Three Ones', the '3 by 5' Initiative and the UN System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS for 2001-2005.

Agenda item 2: Coordination and Harmonization (the 'Three Ones')

7. Recognizing the need to further promote coherence in actions at country-level and the importance of the 'Three Ones' (one agreed HIV/AIDS action framework that provides for the basis for coordinating the work of all partners; one national AIDS coordinating authority, with a broad-based multisectoral mandate; and one agreed country-level monitoring and evaluation system); and taking note of the growing support for harmonization at country level, the Programme Coordinating Board:

7.1 endorses the "Commitment to principles for concerted AIDS action at the country level" agreed during the high-level meeting held on 25 April 2004 in Washington, D.C., which built on earlier declarations and consultations on harmonization, and encourages bilateral and multilateral agencies and national leaders to apply these principles at the country level;

7.2 further endorses specific actions (listed under UNAIDS/PCB 15.04.4) by UNAIDS to support the implementation of the 'Three Ones' at country level, including selection of a number of countries to identify good practices in country-specific situations, and to plan for these actions in the next biennium's Unified Budget and Workplan; and

7.3 encourages UNAIDS to build on work by OECD/DAC to develop principles of good practice for effective coordination and harmonization at the national level; to set clear and specific guidelines for the inclusion of civil society and People Living with HIV and AIDS organizations in partnership forums and other national coordination bodies, and to facilitate efforts to better coordinate funding within the national AIDS strategic framework.

Agenda item 3: Reports by the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations Chair and Nongovernmental Representative

8. Noting with appreciation the Report by the Chairperson of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations, the Programme Coordinating Board:

8.1 welcomes the joint programme-wide initiatives undertaken by UNAIDS, led by the Secretariat and/or various Cosponsors, and notes their key achievements and multisectoral activities in the field of HIV/AIDS;

8.2 encourages UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors to consider a process for providing a harmonized, outcome-oriented report on their HIV/AIDS activities to the PCB, as well as to their respective governing bodies;

8.3 urges the Secretariat and Cosponsors to continue to strengthen the UNAIDS partnership, especially at country level, and thereby contribute to a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS; and

8.4 notes the remarks by the incoming Chair of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations.

9. The Programme Coordinating Board:

9.1 welcomes the presentation of the representative of the nongovernmental organizations and ensuing discussion, and encourages the Secretariat to strengthen and evaluate continued participation of NGOs in the PCB;

9.2 urges UNAIDS to promote discussions within countries to propose legislation against discrimination and assist countries who may wish to declare HIV and AIDS a health emergency; and

9.3 endorses the recommendation that UNAIDS Secretariat, Cosponsors and Member States promote and support evidence-based HIV-prevention interventions.

Agenda item 4: Panel Discussions on Capacity and HIV Treatment Issues in Scaling up Responses to HIV/AIDS

10. Noting with interest and appreciation the presentations from the panellists on the “Strengthening Capacity on HIV and AIDS” the Programme Coordinating Board:

10.1 encourages UNAIDS to assist countries: to identify and analyse national and international policy impediments and short, medium and long term needs related to human capacity; to address these in an urgent, innovative, and - as much as possible - sustainable way; and to foster south-south cooperation.

11. Noting with interest and appreciation the presentations from the panellists on the “Scaling Up Access to AIDS Treatment” the Programme Coordinating Board:

11.1 notes the numerous challenges and opportunities related to scaling up the required responses for treatment and reaffirms the need to integrate prevention and treatment activities, and encourages UNAIDS to continue with public and private sector partners to enhance their efforts to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate the sustainable scale up of treatment and prevention activities; and

11.2 encourages UNAIDS to advocate the effective use of resources, to support diverse systems approaches to delivery of HIV prevention, diagnostics and ARV treatment, on a scale which meets demand at country level.

12. The Programme Coordinating Board expresses their appreciation to the Secretariat for organizing the Panel presentations and encourages UNAIDS, in consultation with partners, to explore ways of improving discussions and decisions on strategic, policy, programmatic and other relevant issues (for instance, additional focus on countries with relevance to programmatic issues).

Agenda item 5: Possible Establishment of a Programme Coordinating Board Bureau

13. Welcoming the proposal by the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) Chair and Vice-Chair to establish a PCB Bureau, as requested at its 14th meeting, the Programme Coordinating Board:

13.1 approves the guiding principles, terms of reference and the membership of the Bureau as follows:

- (i) Guiding Principles
Transparency, efficiency of operation and establishment at a minimum cost.

- (ii) Terms of reference
 - coordinating the Programme Coordinating Board's programme of work for the year;
 - facilitating smooth and efficient functioning of the Programme Coordinating Board sessions;
 - facilitating transparent decision-making at the Programme Coordinating Board;
 - preparing the Programme Coordinating Board agenda, and recommending the allocation of time and the order of discussion items;
 - providing guidance on Programme Coordinating Board documentation, as needed; and
 - additional functions as directed by the Programme Coordinating Board.

- (iii) Membership
the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Rapporteur of the PCB, one Cosponsor representative and one representative of nongovernmental organizations and people living with HIV/AIDS; and

13.2 agrees to review and assess the functioning of the Programme Coordinating Board Bureau after a two-year trial period.

Agenda item 6: Cosponsorship

14. Welcoming the initiative by the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations to strengthen the criteria for cosponsorship of UNAIDS and taking note of both the existing and the new criteria for cosponsorship, the Programme Coordinating Board:

14.1 decides that future proposals by UN-system organizations to join the Programme as Cosponsors should be reviewed by the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations and then submitted to the Programme Coordinating Board for its consideration and approval;

14.2 endorses the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations decision that, in accordance with the Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/2, six Cosponsors will participate in the Programme Coordinating Board as members in any one year, with the selection to be decided upon by the Cosponsors;

14.3 requests that the implications of an increasing number of Cosponsors vis-à-vis the Unified Budget and Workplan, the UNAIDS Secretariat as well as the United Nations Theme Groups on HIV/AIDS at country level, be monitored on an ongoing basis;

14.4 further requests the CCO to regularly review compliance by the Cosponsors with the established criteria, and further encourages UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors to intensify cooperation with all relevant partners; and

14.5 endorses the World Food Programme and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as the ninth and tenth Cosponsors of UNAIDS, respectively.

Agenda item 7: Financial Report

15. Noting with satisfaction the financial report and audited financial statements for the financial period 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2003 and the report of the external auditor, and taking note of the interim financial management information for the 2004-2005 biennium and the financial update as at 30 April 2004, the Programme Coordinating Board:

15.1 notes the opinions of the External Auditors that the financial statements included in the Financial Report for the 2002-2003 biennium accurately reflect UNAIDS accounts and the results of its operations and are consistent with Financial Regulations and Legislative Authority;

15.2 endorses the Executive Director's proposal to utilize part of the 2002-2003 carried-over funds to cover the costs of additional security measures at country level and of payments in conjunction with the construction of new premises in Geneva, including installation costs; and

15.3 encourages donor governments and others to make available their contributions towards the Unified Budget and Workplan for 2004-2005 as soon as possible, if they have not already done so.

Agenda item 8: Other Matters

Agenda item 8.1: Update on the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS Declaration of Commitment

16. Taking note of the update in meeting the goals and targets of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS Declaration of Commitment, the Programme Coordinating Board:

16.1 notes the findings of the Progress Report on the Global Response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic (2003), prepared for the General Assembly review of implementation of the Declaration of Commitment, in particular the areas requiring concerted effort to achieve the 2005 targets of the Declaration of Commitment;

16.2 requests governments to increase their efforts together with all partners in order to reach the 2005 targets in the Declaration of the Commitment; and

16.3 endorses the key actions to be taken by UNAIDS to facilitate achievement of targets for 2005, as proposed in the Report UNAIDS/PCB/15/04.11.

Agenda item 8.2: Review of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

17. Taking note of the review of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Global Fund, the Programme Coordinating Board:

17.1 requests more substantive discussion at a future PCB meeting; and further recommends that PCB Members and Observers on the Global Fund Board ensure that the main themes of this meeting are reflected in the discussions of the Global Fund Board;

17.2 welcomes the increasing collaboration between UNAIDS and the Global Fund in all four areas of the Memorandum of Understanding, and encourages effective collaboration and complementarity; and

17.3 notes the issues identified as requiring concerted attention in the short term, and urges action by all partners, namely the need to: (i) clarify the roles and responsibilities of Global Fund mechanisms vis-à-vis other existing structures at country level (in line with the “Three Ones” principle); (ii) address in a comprehensive manner the increasing demand of countries for technical assistance from the UN system to support national AIDS responses; and (iii) promote the principle of additionality of Global Fund resources.

Agenda item 8.3: Update on the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS

18. Noting with appreciation the update on the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, the Programme Coordinating Board:

18.1 expresses support for the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS’ key principles and action areas;

18.2 welcomes the expected outputs in 2004, especially those related to intensified global, regional and national advocacy and action in the field of HIV/AIDS focused on women and girls; and

18.3 endorses proposed next steps, including further development of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS and opportunities through the 2004 World AIDS Campaign to draw attention to the impact of the epidemic on women and girls.

Agenda item 8.4: Statement by the representative of the UNAIDS Secretariat Staff Association

19. The Programme Coordinating Board welcomes the establishment of the UNAIDS Secretariat Staff Association and takes note of the statement by its representative.

Agenda item 9: Next PCB meeting

20. The Programme Coordinating Board reconfirms its decision from the 14th meeting that the 16th Programme Coordinating Board meeting will be held on 14-15 December 2004. The Programme Coordinating Board also confirms that the meeting will be held in Jamaica, and that Bahamas will be the Vice-Chair. The themes proposed for discussion are gender and AIDS, and prevention.

Agenda item 10: Adoption of decisions, recommendations and conclusions

21. The Programme Coordinating Board adopts the decisions, recommendations and conclusions of the 15th Programme Coordinating Board meeting.
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