

**23rd Meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board
Geneva, Switzerland
15-17 December 2008**

Decisions, Recommendations and Conclusions

The UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board,

Recalling that all aspects of UNAIDS work are directed by the following guiding principles:

- Aligned to national stakeholders' priorities;
- Based on the meaningful and measurable involvement of civil society, especially people living with HIV and populations most at risk of HIV infection;
- Based on human rights and gender equality;
- Based on the best available scientific evidence and technical knowledge; and
- Promoting comprehensive responses to AIDS that integrate prevention, treatment, care and support;

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

1. *Adopts* the agenda;

Agenda item 1.2: Consideration of the report of the twenty-second meeting

2. *Adopts* the report of the 22nd meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board;

Agenda item 1.3: Outcome(s) of the Thematic Segment

- 3.1 *Recognizing* that UNAIDS and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria have as their fundamental objective helping national scale-up to the goal of Universal Access to prevention, treatment, care and support. Further *recognizing* that technical support is an essential component of this mandate as articulated in the Memorandum of Understanding between both organizations and is a means to the outcome of successful implementation of multi-sectoral national AIDS plans:

- 3.2 *Requests* that UNAIDS update its technical support and capacity development strategy through an inclusive process involving implementing countries and civil society, taking into account:
- points made and conclusions of the thematic segment with particular reference to gender equality;
 - the analytical work of the Global Implementation Support Team, progress made by the task force on operationalization of the UNAIDS-Global Fund Memorandum of Understanding and Coordinated AIDS Technical Support database;
 - the 2006 report costing the division of labour among cosponsors as it relates to technical support, *“Making the Money Work through Greater UN Support for AIDS Responses”*;
 - the broad range of technical support mechanisms that currently exist;
 - the need to include both short-term and long-term strategic technical support; and
 - the key role of country-based technical support and capacity building strategies and plans to identify technical support needs;
- 3.3 *Requests* that the strategy include an estimate of those costs covered by the existing mandates and budgets of the UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors, along with those aspects, including technical support provided by civil society, which require further resources;
- 3.4 *Requests* that UNAIDS work with the Secretariat of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to emphasize the willingness and capacity of UNAIDS, including Joint UN teams at country level, to advance mutual goals as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding, including implementation of Global Fund HIV/AIDS grants. Routine information sharing, including Local Fund Agent reports as appropriate, should be a priority;
- 3.5 *Requests* UNAIDS to work with the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to improve the understanding by UN staff in country of the roles and expectations of the two bodies, as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding and to use its convening power to maximize the impact of the Global Fund portfolio in each country;
- 3.6 *Calls upon* UNAIDS and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to assist National AIDS Coordinating Authorities in the implementation of decision 8.4 of the 18th PCB meeting specifically that *“the national coordinating authority should, with guidance from UNAIDS, take the lead on reducing duplication between Country Coordinating Mechanisms and National Coordinating Authorities”* with the objective of improving coordination and coherence of the national AIDS response;
- 3.7 *Calls upon* National AIDS Coordinating Authorities and UNAIDS to invest in the capacity development of civil society to enable their meaningful participation in the work of such Authorities and to pursue the principles of accountability, transparency and participation;
- 3.8 *Requests* UNAIDS to compile best practice and lessons learned to support and facilitate Public Private Partnerships with respect to their applicability for

strengthening the public sector in developing countries and share the information with relevant stakeholders;

- 3.9 *Requests* UNAIDS to accelerate its work on gender equality (women and girls), and lesbians, gays, bi-sexuals, and transgenders with the meaningful engagement of those communities as well as people living with HIV in order to support needs assessments and proposal development by National AIDS programs and Country Coordinating Mechanisms, and facilitate countries' proposals to the Global Fund grant implementation;
- 3.10 *Requests* the UNAIDS Secretariat in consultation with the Global Fund Secretariat to provide, for the 24th Programme Coordinating Board meeting, options to strengthen mechanisms to facilitate consultation and networking among African States to meaningfully participate in the Programme Coordinating Board and the Board of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria with a view to its subsequent expansion to other regions;
- 3.11 *Requests* the UNAIDS Secretariat to prepare a report for the 24th Programme Coordinating Board meeting focusing on the objectives of the thematic segment, including its preparation, format, structure and outcomes of thematic segments including the process for the selection of themes that builds upon the relevant decisions of the 21st Programme Coordinating Board;

Agenda item 1.4: Report of the Executive Director

4. *Paid* tribute to Dr Peter Piot as Executive Director of UNAIDS and *recognized* the many accomplishments realized during his tenure, including: placing and maintaining AIDS on the global political agenda; the alliances he established across a wide range of sectors and actors; his ability to mobilize significant resources; his readiness to innovate; his insistence on a human rights based approach; and, the creation of UNAIDS as a joint programme that remains unique within the work of the United Nations. His personal qualities and commitment to the response to AIDS cannot be overestimated and serve as an example of the leadership required to defeat the AIDS epidemic.

Agenda item 2: The Unified Budget and Workplan: Monitoring implementation and planning for the future

- 5.1 *Takes note of* the quality and scope of the Performance Monitoring Report based on a more, systematic approach to monitoring the 2006-2007 Unified Budget and Workplan and a more comprehensive assessment of UNAIDS achievements compared to the past;
- 5.2 *Agrees* that future planning and reporting should: focus on results, take into account lessons and obstacles; include indicators that relate to wider development; aim to simplify data; include information on the impact of activities, qualitative and quantitative reporting, cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and human rights; and data disaggregated to the extent possible by categories such as country, Cosponsor, age and sex;
- 5.3 *Supports* continued focus on the measurement of UNAIDS achievements at country level as part of efforts to monitor progress against the Declaration of

Commitment of the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS, the 2006 Political Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals;

- 5.4 *Encourages* additional emphasis on performance monitoring and evaluation to further improve reporting and to enhance accountability at all levels and across the Joint Programme;
- 5.5 Further *agrees*, that the process to develop the Unified Budget and Workplan for 2010-2011 should include clarity on the division of labour, a reduction of indicators as appropriate, and a focus on the linkages between investments and results;
- 5.6 *Urges* all countries to provide adequate resources to fully fund the 2008-2009 Unified Budget and Workplan and in addition, commit to ensuring the updated Strategic Framework 2007-2011 is efficiently and effectively implemented;
- 5.7 *Requests* UNAIDS to develop, and implement rapidly an advocacy strategy and plan of Action to mitigate the potential impact of the current financial crisis, particularly in the most affected regions;
- 5.8 *Takes note* of the updated Strategic Framework for 2007-2011 as the principal guide to global, regional and country-level planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring progress of UNAIDS support to countries efforts to move towards the goal of Universal Access;
- 5.9 *Agrees* to the establishment of a subcommittee ad interim of the Programme Coordinating Board for the preparation of the 2010-2011 Unified Budget and Workplan with the mandate to review in a general manner and make recommendations to the 24th Programme Coordinating Board meeting on:
 - a. the overall priorities, scope and structure of the UNAIDS Budget and Workplan;
 - b. the expected results and broad activities of the Unified Budget and Workplan;
 - c. the performance monitoring framework, indicators, targets and financial implementation reports; and
 - d. follow-up on implementation of the previous decisions on the Unified Budget and Workplan;
- 5.10 *Agrees* that the subcommittee shall be comprised of a maximum of ten member states (two per geographical region), two NGOs, two Cosponsors and the UNAIDS Secretariat, and that the reports of the subcommittee meetings be posted on the UNAIDS website;
- 5.11 *Agrees* the process for establishment of the subcommittee as follows:
 - By the deadline of 9 January 2009 the Chair of the Programme Coordinating Board to invite proposals for membership from each (Member State) region and constituency (NGOs and CCO); each group should present consensus nominees if possible;
 - Each constituency will be requested to submit the exact number of nominations to fill the number of places on the subcommittee for that particular constituency;

- If the number of nominations exceeds or is less than the number of places on the subcommittee for a particular constituency, the Chair of the Programme Coordinating Board will contact all members of that constituency represented on the Board for further discussion and agreement;
- Once the subcommittee is established the PCB Bureau will communicate the names of the members to all Member States, PCB NGOs and Cosponsors; and
- The PCB Bureau shall propose, for agreement by the Programme Coordinating Board using the inter-sessional decision making process, a Chair from within the membership of the subcommittee;

5.12 Further *agrees* that the budget for the operations of the subcommittee shall be a maximum of USD 114,000 to cover two meetings of the subcommittee;

5.13 *Agrees* that a decision on the continuation of the subcommittee will be taken at the 25th Programme Coordinating Board meeting in light of the outcomes of the Second Independent Evaluation;

Agenda item 3: Report of the International Task Team on HIV-related Travel Restrictions

6.1 Strongly *encourages* all countries to eliminate HIV-specific restrictions on entry, stay and residence and ensure that people living with HIV are no longer excluded, detained or deported on the basis of HIV status;

6.2 *Agrees* that, mindful of Programme Coordinating Board decision 8.2 taken at its 21st meeting, no Programme Coordinating Board meeting will be held in a country with an HIV-specific restriction related to entry, stay or residence based on HIV status;

6.3 *Requests* UNAIDS and other relevant international organizations to implement the recommendations specific to them in the Report of the International Task Team on HIV-related Travel Restrictions;

6.4 *Requests* the UNAIDS Secretariat to provide a progress report to the 24th Programme Coordinating Board meeting on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the International Task Team on HIV-related Travel Restrictions;

Agenda item 4: Increased involvement of civil society in the PCB

7.1 *Welcomes* the report of the PCB NGOs on the "*Increased involvement of civil society in the PCB*";

7.2 Mindful of the sovereignty and capacity of Member States:

- a. *Encourages* Member States to consider the possibility of involving, in a capacity they deem appropriate, one or more representatives of civil society, including people living with HIV and affected communities, within their national delegations to Programme Coordinating Board meetings; and

- b. *Recommends* that the UNAIDS Secretariat, country offices and Regional Support Teams explore and identify ways to support Member States to involve civil society in their delegations;
- 7.3 *Requests* the Programme Coordinating Board Bureau to host at least two of its meetings ‘in person’ in the lead-up to each Programme Coordinating Board meeting – and to provide resources to those members, including the representative of the NGO Delegation, that are unable to cover their costs;
 - 7.4 *Requests* the Programme Coordinating Board Bureau to provide a simple ‘road map’ for how each key document for decision will be conceptualized, developed and finalized and when/how different stakeholders, including civil society, can contribute;
 - 7.5 *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders to submit their key documents for decision at least 8 weeks prior to Programme Coordinating Board meetings - to facilitate timely translation and enable comprehensive consultation among all sectors, including civil society;
 - 7.6 *Requests* the UNAIDS Regional Support Teams and Cosponsors to include NGO delegates, or their designated representative, in regional meetings, where appropriate;
 - 7.7 *Calls upon* the Regional Support Teams to facilitate NGO regional caucuses, including people living with HIV and other key affected populations. These will be co-hosted periodically by the Regional Support Team, regional PCB NGO delegates and the PCB NGO’s Communications Facility, and could be attached to a pre-existing meeting;
 - 7.8 *Agrees* to schedule an agenda item to review progress towards increasing and improving civil society participation and, in particular, to review the implementation of relevant recommendations from the Second Independent Evaluation, in a Programme Coordinating Board meeting in 2010.
 - 7.9 *Requests* the UNAIDS Secretariat to prepare a paper for the 25th Programme Coordinating Board meeting that responds to the management and cost implications of the proposed recommendations presented in the PCB NGO’s paper to the 23rd Board meeting on “*Increased involvement of civil society in the PCB*”, and taking into account the recommendations of the Second Independent Evaluation;

Agenda item 5: Report on the process for nomination of the Executive Director

8. With respect to future nominations, takes note of the following suggestions and *requests* the PCB Bureau to consider them:
 - a. the Programme Coordinating Board should establish a Search Committee, composed according to the same criteria, working on the same objective basis, and relying only on a merit-based approach;
 - b. a professional recruitment firm should be used to do outreach to encourage and solicit applications. The firm should do the screening and assist throughout

the meetings on the establishment of scoreboards and practical points, calling for interviews, writing reports etc.;

- c. an extraordinary Programme Coordinating Board meeting should be merit based and should not allow any discussion or reporting of candidates' attributes which are not directly relevant to the merit based approach and which can be damaging to the protection of candidates;
- d. Legal Counsel should be involved throughout the process; and
- e. the Chair of the Search Committee should attend the selection and interview meetings of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations;

Agenda item 6.1: Review of the process for PCB inter-sessional decision making

- 9. *Agrees* to the addition of a new Annex 3 to the Modus Operandi of the Programme Coordinating Board to formalize the functions and composition of the PCB Bureau and the inter-sessional decision making process that may be used by the Bureau in meeting its mandated functions from the Board;

Agenda item 6.2: Implementation of previous PCB decisions

- 10. *Agrees* the proposed amendments to the Modus Operandi to implement its decisions from the 20th Programme Coordinating Board meeting;

Agenda item 6.3: Election of Officers

- 11.1 *Elects* Ethiopia as Chair, the Netherlands as Vice-Chair, and Guatemala as Rapporteur for the calendar year beginning on 1 January 2009;
- 11.2 *Approves* the new members of the PCB NGO delegation for 2009: Alexandra Garita, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF, WHR); Dr. Evan Collins, Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN); Dr. Lydia Mungherera, TASO (The AIDS Support Organisation) Uganda; and, Dr. Robert Carr, Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition, Jamaica ;

Agenda item 7.1: Gender-sensitivity of AIDS responses

- 12.1 *Takes note* of the progress report on the gender-sensitivity of AIDS responses;
- 12.2 *Requests* UNAIDS to prepare a progress report for the 24th Programme Coordinating Board meeting detailing the work of the UNAIDS Secretariat and the Cosponsors in assisting countries in developing gender equality including needs assessments for women and girls and for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities separately, emphasizing country level action, as well as follow-up actions, including the establishment of an inter-agency strategy to address HIV and women and girls in line with the strategy undertaken with lesbians, gays, bi-sexuals and transgender;

Agenda item 7.2: Second Independent Evaluation of UNAIDS

13. *Takes note* of the progress report on the Second Independent Evaluation of UNAIDS;

Agenda item 8: Any Other Business

- 14.1 *Requests* the UNAIDS Secretariat to provide a paper to the 24th Programme Coordinating Board meeting on the organization of field visits that builds upon that submitted to the 21st Board meeting on “*Issues related to future PCB meetings*”;
- 14.2 Mindful of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 51/14, which calls for collaboration among Member States represented both in the Commission and on the Programme Coordinating Board towards the promotion of better coordination and alignment of the AIDS response in order to scale up towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention, care, treatment and support services for people who use drugs; *takes note* of the upcoming UNGASS review of the World Drug Problem and *requests* UNODC, as one of the UNAIDS Cosponsors, to work towards an outcome of the meeting that accurately reflects the importance of decreasing HIV transmission and co-infection in people who use drugs.

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