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3 June 2010

26th Meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board
Geneva, Switzerland
22-24 June 2010

Next Programme Coordinating Board meetings

Document prepared by the Programme Coordinating Board Bureau

Additional documents for this item: none

Action required at this meeting - the Programme Coordinating Board is invited to:

See decision paragraphs below:

6. *agree* on one of the options proposed;
7. *agree* the theme for the 29th Programme Coordinating Board meeting;
8. *agree* to request the PCB Bureau to take appropriate and timely steps to ensure that due process is followed in the call for themes for the 30th and 31st Programme Coordinating Boards, as necessary; and
12. *agree* the dates for the next Programme Coordinating Board meetings.

Cost implications for decisions: none

I THEMES FOR THE 28TH AND 29TH PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD MEETINGS

1. At its 20th meeting in June 2007 the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board decided that Board meetings will consist of a decision making segment and a thematic segment (decision 10a). Further to this decision the 21st meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board in December 2007 discussed the modalities for the identification of themes and agreed on a process whereby; *“the theme for PCB thematic segments should be decided by the Board upon recommendation of the PCB Bureau. This recommendation should be based upon a call for proposals directed to all PCB constituencies and possibly other key actors..”* (ref. UNAIDS/PCB(21)/07.5 para.9). The Programme Coordinating Board also agreed that proposed themes should be considered on the basis of four criteria: broad relevance, responsiveness, focus, and scope for action.

II PROCESS OF SELECTION OF THEMES FOR THE 28TH AND 29TH BOARD MEETINGS

2. Mindful of the decisions from the 20th and 21st meetings, the Programme Coordinating Board Bureau sent out a call to all Board participants in March 2010 inviting proposals for themes for the 28th and 29th Programme Coordinating Board meetings to be held in June and December 2011 respectively. A template was attached to the email for proposals to be submitted against the four criteria for selection of themes that had been previously agreed by the Board.
3. In addition to the eight new proposals that were received the Bureau also looked back at those that had previously been submitted for the 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th Programme Coordinating Board meetings and which had not been taken up. The Bureau gave due consideration to a number of factors including: the level and diversity of support; urgency of the issue; whether the issue was being considered elsewhere; inclusion of the theme as a sub-issue under a broader or related theme; and, how suitable the theme was to be addressed by the Board at a particular time.
4. In order to capture a series of closely interrelated issues that were raised in a number of the proposals, the Bureau agreed to choose two broad themes that could encompass the key issues raised. However, the Bureau was also mindful of the proposal being submitted to the Board by the *Programme Coordinating Board Task Force on SIE follow-up related to all aspects of Governance* (ref. UNAIDS/PCB(26)/10.8) to dedicate three days to the regular segment of the Board meeting in the future when the Unified Budget and Workplan is submitted for approval.
5. In considering themes for forthcoming Programme Coordinating Board meetings, the Bureau had agreed the benefits of identifying themes one year in advance of the meeting at which they would be considered as a way to facilitate planning for the segment and to allow sufficient time for preparation of the substance (e.g. commissioning of research and/or analysis). Given all of the above the Bureau agreed to propose the following.

28th Programme Coordinating Board meeting

6. The theme that was found to be most appropriate for the 28th Programme Coordinating Board meeting is the *“The Role of combination prevention in achieving Universal Access”* (see the Annex to this paper for a full description). However, mindful of the Board agenda item on the report of the *PCB Task Force on SIE follow-up related to all aspects of governance*, the Board may decide that there will be no thematic segment at the 28th meeting in June 2011. **Therefore, the Programme Coordinating Board is further invited to:**
 - a. *Agree* that the theme for the 28th Programme Coordinating Board meeting be *“The Role of combination prevention in achieving Universal Access”*; OR
 - b. *Requests* the PCB Bureau to conduct a new call for nominations of themes for the 30th meeting (June 2012) the results to be considered at the 28th meeting (June 2011), taking into consideration the suggested theme be *“The Role of combination prevention in achieving Universal Access”*.

29th Programme Coordinating Board meeting

7. The theme proposed for the 29th meeting in December 2011 is *HIV and Enabling Legal Environments* (see the Annex to this paper for a full description). Given that the *Global Commission on HIV and the Law* is scheduled to conclude in December 2011, the Bureau feels that the 29th meeting would be the most appropriate time to address this theme and that the theme should remain unchanged regardless of decisions related the 28th Board meeting. **Therefore, the Programme Coordinating Board is invited to:**

Agree that the theme for the 29th Programme Coordinating Board meeting is *“HIV and Enabling Legal Environments”*.

30th and 31st Programme Coordinating Board meetings

8. Given that the 30th and 31st meetings of the Programme Coordinating Board are scheduled for June and December 2012 respectively and mindful of the potential options mentioned in paragraph 7 above, **the Programme Coordinating Board is invited to agree the following:**

Requests the PCB Bureau to take appropriate and timely steps to ensure that due process is followed in the call for themes for the 30th and 31st Programme Coordinating Boards, as necessary;

II DATES FOR THE NEXT PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD MEETINGS

9. At its 24th meeting, the Board agreed the following dates for the 27th and 28th Programme Board meetings:

27th meeting: 7-9 December 2010
28th meeting: 21-23 June 2011

10. However, the Bureau was informed by the Secretariat that no suitable venue (including other UN organizations, conference centers and hotels) could be found for the new dates agreed for the 27th meeting while the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG) is available for the original dates that were agreed at the 22nd meeting, 6-8 December 2010. Based on this information, the Bureau has agreed to propose to revert to the original dates: 6-8 December 2010.
11. While these dates have been chosen through a careful review by the Programme Coordinating Board Bureau of the currently available information, they may have to be brought back for reconsideration reflecting future decisions around the timing of the comprehensive review in 2011 of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (2001) and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (2006),.
12. **The Programme Coordinating Board is invited to agree the following dates for the next Board meetings:**

27th meeting: 6-8 December 2010

29th meeting: 6-8 December 2011

[Annex I follows]

ANNEX

Proposed themes for 28th and 29th PCB meetings

28th Programme Coordinating Board meeting – June 2011

Proposed theme: The Role of combination prevention in achieving Universal Access

Broad relevance:

AIDS remains the fourth-leading cause of death globally and the leading cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa. Today, 33 million people are living with HIV and almost 7,500 people are newly infected every day. About half of those infected are women and AIDS is now the leading cause of death for women of reproductive age in the world. Despite international efforts, only 3 million people are receiving life-saving drugs, and new infections far outpace treatment efforts. For every 2 people put on antiretroviral treatment, nearly 5 others become newly infected with HIV. In the long run moreover, these existing programmes may not be sustainable given other health and development priorities. In order to control and finally eradicate HIV and AIDS better prevention options are needed.

Responsiveness:

With the end of Universal Access targets approaching and significant evidence that most people at risk of HIV infection have little or no access to basic prevention tools, there has been growing calls for scaling up HIV prevention efforts including the call by Michel Sidibé for a "Prevention Revolution" - essentially calling on countries to pursue combination prevention deploying a blend of biomedical, behavioural and structural approaches tailored to address the particular and unique realities of those most vulnerable to HIV infection.

The call for the promotion of combination prevention is underscored by the current financial and economic crisis which has had wide-spread and in some cases a devastating impact on the response to the epidemic.¹

- The World Bank calculated that continuity of treatment could be threatened for around 70% of people currently on treatment in Eastern and Southern Africa. Around 50% in the Asia Pacific region, 35% in the Caribbean and 25% in Eastern Europe and Central Asia could also be affected.
- 75% of people living with HIV said they expected prevention programmes to be negatively affected and national AIDS programmes anticipated greater impact on prevention than treatment, with prevention targeting marginalised groups such as men who have sex with men and injecting drug users at greatest risk, according to respondents. Eastern Europe and Central Asia was identified as the region where prevention work with marginalised groups is at greatest risk due to the economic downturn.
- Separately, private and public spending on research for microbicides and vaccines declined for the first time, by 10% from the year before.²

¹ *The Global Economic Crisis and HIV Prevention and Treatment Programmes: Vulnerabilities and Impact* (UNAIDS & World Bank, June 2009)

http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2009/jc1734_econ_crisis_hiv_response_en.pdf

² HIV Vaccines and Microbicides Resource Tracking Working Group
(http://www.hivresourcetracking.org/general/new_developments)

To ensure Universal Access to prevention, new and better types of HIV prevention are needed. Toward that end, there needs to be sustained investments in scaling up prevention, treatment, care and research, which requires sustained commitment by governments and other funders in the face of economic pressures.

Focus:

This thematic session may be organised around the following key issues:

- Combination prevention – key issues
 - Behavioural change
 - Biomedical strategies
 - Social justice and human rights
 - Treatment / ARVs
- How to address obstacles to prevention
 - Homophobia
 - Gender (feminization, gender-based violence, role of men, early child marriage)
 - Children / Youth (special needs, education)
 - Criminalization (sex work and drug use)
 - Cultural barriers
- How prevention relates to treatment scale up and the concept developed by GNP+ of Positive Health, Dignity and Prevention

Scope for action:

This thematic session could facilitate a broad-based dialogue amongst Board participants on HIV treatment and prevention focusing on how to reach the Universal Access goals:

- Evaluate and take stock of recent prevention strategies focusing on combination prevention (successes, failures, best practices)
- Explore an integrated treatment-prevention advocacy agenda at the global, regional and country level

29th Programme Coordinating Board – December 2011

Proposed theme: HIV and Enabling Legal Environments

Broad relevance:

In the *Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (2001)* and the *Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (2006)*, governments made major and specific commitments on protecting the human rights of people living with HIV, women and girls and vulnerable populations. They also made several specific commitments regarding the nature of the law and legal environment necessary to support effective HIV responses and universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Since that time, countries have reported on these commitments under the UNGASS reporting framework in the National Composite Policy Index (NCPI).

These reports, as well as information from other sources reveal, however, that, though progress has been made in some places towards creating enabling legal environments for national AIDS responses, there are also several indications that governments continue to utilize punitive approaches in the context of HIV. These approaches involve such things as the overly broad criminalization of HIV transmission; criminalization of key populations; failure to protect women from violence; denial of property and inheritance rights;

*refoulement*³ of HIV positive asylum-seekers, refugees and undocumented immigrants; HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence; denial of HIV prevention and treatment in prisons; and policies of mandatory testing. Furthermore as a great deal of data have shown, stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and other key populations still comprise major barriers to universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support and are not sufficiently addressed by the law, law enforcement and access to justice by those affected.

For these reasons, UNAIDS made, as one of 10 corporate priorities in the *Joint Action for AIDS, Outcome Framework*, support countries to “remove punitive laws, policies, practices, stigma and discrimination”. Furthermore, UNDP, on behalf of the UNAIDS family, has convened the *Global Commission on HIV and the Law* to build evidence and actionable recommendations towards enabling, not punitive, legal environments to support effective national HIV responses, as well as the human rights of those vulnerable to or living with HIV. Other efforts are ongoing (e.g. intensive work with countries to remove HIV-related travel restrictions and provision of UNAIDS comments to draft laws).

Responsiveness:

This theme would touch on the following issues:

- Evidence around the impact of laws, law enforcement and access to justice issues on national AIDS responses
- Preliminary findings/recommendations of the *Global Commission on HIV and the Law*
- Relevant findings from the *UN High-Level Commission on HIV Prevention* being convened by UNAIDS Secretariat
- Progress made under the Outcome Framework priority
- Data from the UNGASS NCPI and other sources

Focus:

This thematic session could address the following specific issues:

- The use and impact of protective laws in responses to HIV
- Criminalization and its impact on the response (of HIV transmission, sex work, drug use and sexual minorities)
- Protective versus punitive policing practices
- Legal issues affecting women and girls in the context of HIV
- Intellectual property and drug regulation issues affecting access to treatment

Scope for action:

This thematic session could also aim to explore

- Better engagement in the response of critical constituencies: Ministries of Justice/Interior, Parliaments, the Judiciary, National Human Rights Institutions, law enforcement, and human rights, legal and women’s groups
- Programming to reduce stigma and discrimination and increase access to justice – how to get it funded and taken to scale
- Good practices to be shared.

[End of document]

³ Return to countries where they will face persecution.