

Summary of the PCB Bureau meeting of 25 May 2007

Present: Annika Molin-Hellgren (Sweden), Prangtip Kanchanahattakij (Thailand), Geoff Adlide (Australia), Imad Osman-Salih* (WFP, representing Cosponsors), Rachel Ong* (APN+, representing PCB NGOs)

UNAIDS Secretariat: As Sy (Director, CER), Paul De Lay (Director, EVA), Helen Frary (Chief, ERG/CER), Jacek Tyszko (External Relations Officer, ERG/CER)

*by telephone

Meeting agenda:

1. Status of preparations for the 20th PCB meeting
2. Outcomes of the General Assembly debate (New York, 21 May 2007) on AIDS
3. Other Business

1. Status of preparations for the 20th PCB meeting

The Secretariat provided information on:

- status of background papers for the meeting (posted on the web on 18 May, four remaining to be posted by 31 May to be followed by French versions);
- preparations for the missions briefing of 1 June 2007 devoted to the 20th PCB meeting;
- reception hosted by the PCB Chair and the UNAIDS EXD at the UNAIDS building on 25 June 2007; and other logistical arrangements related to the meeting.

The Bureau discussed the content of the background paper presented by the PCB NGOs under agenda item 3.2 “Results of the Review of the NGO/Civil Society participation in the Programme Coordinating Board”. It was reaffirmed that recommendations of this paper would be discussed by the PCB together with the recommendations from the paper presented by Sweden and Thailand under agenda item 3.3 “UNAIDS role in strengthening global coordination on AIDS and development of the Programme Coordinating Board”. The chair noted that no prior consultations with Member States on the potentially far reaching reform proposals in the NGO review had taken place and questioned if it was appropriate that an independent review be complemented by a Secretariat document containing decisions and cost analyses ahead of a discussion at the PCB of the review itself. The Secretariat explained that the paper had been prepared by the PCB NGOs, did not contain any Secretariat’s text nor did it reflect the views of the Secretariat. The presence of the logo is only due to the fact that this is an official PCB paper. In order to facilitate well-informed discussion on these issues the Bureau requested

the Secretariat to prepare a note on existing UN legislation relevant to changes proposed by the PCB NGOs.

The Bureau also decided to include the financial implications of draft decisions presented in the PCB background documents as an agenda item for its next meeting.

2. Outcomes of the General Assembly debate on AIDS (New York, 21 May 2007)

Paul De Lay presented information on the outcomes of the GA debate on AIDS. The meeting had been devoted to the review of the progress made towards universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in follow up to the implementation of the 2001 Declaration of Commitment and 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. The progress report prepared by the UNAIDS family was presented as a background document. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed the Assembly. In his statement (first on AIDS since he took the office) he confirmed his support to the AIDS response; promised to ensure that the international community remains united against the epidemic; and that AIDS would remain a system-wide priority for the UN as a whole. There were over 40 interventions in the debate, including by the GA President, Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa and the UNAIDS Executive Director.

On the margins of the meeting the Secretary-General met with his Special Envoys on HIV/AIDS (Elizabeth Mataka was appointed as the new Special Envoy for Africa) and with a group of UN staff living with HIV, commonly known as 'UN+'.

3. Other Business

As Sy provided an update on the new structure of the UNAIDS Secretariat due on 1 June 2007.

It was agreed that the summaries of Bureau meetings, in addition to the web posting, will be disseminated to the PCB members by email.

Next meeting: 15 June 2007