

Summary of the PCB Bureau meeting of 22 March 2012

Present: Anna Marzec-Bogusławska (chairing), Jolanta Chojecka and Joanna Glazewska (Poland); Lavanya Kumar (India); Colin Mclff (USA); Ebony Johnson, Mat Southwell (PCB NGOs) and Rosalia Rodriguez-Garcia, Nejma Cheikh (World Bank) joined by phone.

Guest Speaker: H.E. Dr. Tom Mboya Okeyo, Ambassador / Permanent Representative of Kenya, accompanied by Anastacia Osundwa

UNAIDS Secretariat: Jan Beagle, Bernhard Schwartländer, Susan Timberlake, Els Klinkert, Dorcas Mapondera, Nina Sun, Jacek Tyszko, Yuki Takemoto

Meeting agenda:

1. Update, Strategic Investment consultations
2. Update, UNAIDS Technical Support consultations
3. Update, Thematic Segment at 30th PCB meeting, June 2012 (Combination Prevention)
4. Update, Follow-up to thematic segment from the 29th PCB meeting (HIV and Enabling Legal Environments)
5. Draft agenda for the 30th PCB meeting
6. Any other business

1. Update, Strategic Investment consultations

H.E. Dr. Tom Mboya Okeyo, Ambassador / Permanent Representative of Kenya in Geneva presented the Action Plan for the consultative process around strategic approaches to investment in the AIDS response and explained his role in the process:

- This is an extremely important issue in today's context as countries confront the challenge of intensifying efforts in the response at a time when the global economic environment has made mobilizing additional resources harder than ever.
- The UNAIDS Investment Framework is a document of high quality and substance based on extensive research, having successfully undergone a rigorous peer review process. However, discussions at the 29th PCB meeting (December 2011) revealed the need to better inform Board constituencies of the content and nature of the Investment Framework and the need for further dialogue around strategic approaches to investment and related issues.
- Concerns raised at the PCB meeting included: a lack of clarity about the relationship between an academic paper in which the investment framework was first articulated and policy making processes; a perceived 'legitimisation' of the decline in donor commitment to AIDS; the lack of a fully consultative process in the development of the framework and full country ownership; and concerns that the framework would be a vehicle for the imposition of requirements that countries fund particular programmes without regard to national circumstances.
- Following the Board's decision to ask for '*a process of inclusive consultations, to consider approaches to strategic investment*' the UNAIDS Executive Director asked Ambassador Mboya to lead this consultation process.
- The consultation process will comprise of 3 phases: identifying the problem; seeking solutions to address barriers to strategic investment approaches; and generating political support for strategic approaches.
- The timeline for consultations is as follows:
 - Meeting with the Africa Group Ambassadors (26 March)
 - Consultations with technical representatives of the Africa Group in Geneva (28 March)

- Briefing for Geneva-based Permanent Missions (29 March)
- Consultations by regional groups of Geneva-based Permanent Missions (April)
- Teleconference with PCB NGOs (mid April)
- Meeting with Heads of Geneva-based Permanent Missions (mid May)
- Progress report to the Board (June)
- In addition, informal discussions with various key stakeholders that have already begun will continue.
- Ambassador Mboya is committed to ensuring an open discussion with all key stakeholders including Member States and civil society. The intention is to conclude all formal consultations by June 2012 in order to allow countries to implement strategic approaches to investment in the AIDS response in a timely manner. Given the current financial and economic climate, these consultations, while extremely important, should not delay the effort to implement solutions.

The Bureau welcomed the briefing and congratulated Ambassador Mboya on his personal commitment to this issue as well as the progress made in the national response to HIV in Kenya. In the discussion that followed, it was agreed that:

- The Action Plan to be updated to reflect the fact that Ambassador Mboya will give an oral update to the Board in June on the inclusive consultative process, to be followed by an written update to the Board in December 2012;
- While some Member States had asked for a written progress report to be submitted to the Board in June, the Bureau agreed that the priority was to allow maximum time for a robust and inclusive consultative process up to June 2012.
- The updated Action Plan will be shared with all Permanent Missions before the Mission Briefing/Consultation on Strategic Investment and UNAIDS Technical Support scheduled for 29 March. Ambassador Mboya will lead the discussion on Strategic Investment at the meeting;
- The consultative process around strategic investment should include UNAIDS Cosponsors, and linkages with efforts by external partners in particular those involved with resource mobilization such as the Global Fund and UNITAID.

2. Update, UNAIDS Technical Support consultations

The Secretariat provided an update on the latest draft document that will serve as the basis of consultations at the meeting with Permanent Missions on 29 March.

- The document includes: a brief history of the UNAIDS Technical Support Strategy; the changing AIDS environment and its implications; recent evidence and breakthroughs; technical support within the framework of other existing architectures (e.g. UNAIDS Strategy, UNAIDS Division of Labour, UNAIDS Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework – UBRAF); civil society partners as receivers and providers of technical support; and the relationship with the Global Fund.
- The proposal is to form a working group, consisting of representatives of all Board constituencies, to contribute to drafting the document following the various consultations.
- The Secretariat hopes to include examples of lessons learnt through efforts to translate the global Technical Support Strategy into action in a couple of regions.

Comments from the Bureau and agreed follow-up actions:

- A short description of lessons learnt from the Global Implementation Support Team (GIST) to be incorporated into the draft document;
- The Bureau hopes to see the adequate regional distribution of the activities in the field of the Technical Support
- The Bureau stressed the importance of sharing the draft document ahead of the consultation and asked to be given 24 hours before wider distribution;

- The Secretariat will share the updated draft document with Bureau members (*DONE on 23 March*) before sending out to all Permanent Missions ahead of the Mission Briefing/Consultation on 29 March.

3. Update, Thematic Segment at 30th PCB meeting, June 2012 (Combination Prevention)

The Secretariat provided an update on preparations:

- The core working group with representatives from 12 countries, 9 cosponsors and 5 PCB NGOs has held 3 teleconferences to date.
- Agreed objectives are:
 1. Increased understanding of effective combination prevention: what works and what doesn't work as well as opportunities for scaling-up;
 2. Improved awareness on the need for cost-effective investments in combination prevention programmes to maximise returns (highest number possible of new infections averted);
 3. Increased attention to and acknowledgment of the magnitude of HIV and viral hepatitis B & C co-infections and the ensuing challenges;
 4. Enhanced awareness of the importance of monitoring and evaluating research and Combination Prevention programmes to show progress.
- As was requested by the PCB, cooperation with civil society will be addressed throughout the session.
- Format of the day:
 - Morning plenary: Combination Prevention — what it is, what works for different epidemics and scaling up through strategic investments to maximize returns.
 - Four breakout sessions:
 - Morning:
 - 1: *Young people and Combination Prevention*
 - 2: *HIV and co-infections with viral hepatitis B and C*
 - Afternoon
 - 3: *Community mobilization*
 - 4: *Filling the gaps in prevention programming*
 - Afternoon plenary: (1) reporting from the breakout sessions and (2) focus on monitoring and evaluation.
- Background paper: The final document should not exceed 12 pages. The first draft should be available for comments by the core working group at the end of March.
- Selection criteria for speakers: There should be a balance in terms of geography, region, language, gender, age, to include members/representatives of key populations including PLWHA, governments, civil society and UNAIDS Cosponsors.
- So far no additional funds are available to invite outside speakers and working group members have been encouraged to explore other options such as PCB meeting participants and those who will be in the vicinity of Geneva at the time of the meeting.

The Bureau:

- Welcomed the focus on young people and efforts by the working group to ensure diverse representation.
- Encouraged the working group to consider the possible use of a professional facilitator that was highly successful at the December PCB meeting.

4. Update, Follow-up to thematic segment from the 29th PCB meeting (HIV and Enabling Legal Environments)

The Secretariat provided an update on preparations including some unresolved issues in the working group pertaining to nature of the follow-up. The Bureau discussed the format and content of a follow-up report, taking into account the views expressed by the members of the working group and agreed that:

- It is critical to have recommendations for thematic segments generally and thus there should be a document consisting of a short, accurate and balanced summary of key points with draft recommendations for consideration by the Board at the 30th meeting.
- The document should reflect the richness, the variety and the balance of views expressed at the thematic and have clearly defined recommendations for UNAIDS, governments and civil society, but it should not attribute statements to different speakers or have a disclaimer.

It was agreed that the Chair and other members of the Bureau who also sit on the working group will communicate these decisions to the entire group (*done March 26th*).

5. Draft agenda for the 30th PCB meeting

The Bureau agreed the draft agenda for the 30th PCB meeting noting the following:

Implementation of Human Rights-related Board decisions

- The Bureau considered and agreed the proposal by the Chair to postpone the item until the December PCB meeting based on the following rationale:
 - To avoid any confusion over what issues will be discussed under this item and 'Follow-up to the thematic segment of the 29th PCB meeting' and allow for a more focused discussion on 'HIV and Enabling Legal Environments' to do justice to the rich outcome of that session;
 - Synergy with the thematic segment at the December PCB meeting ('Non-discrimination');
 - Sustained attention on HIV and human rights-related issues in the regular segment for June 2012 – June 2013;
 - Discussion by the Bureau at the last meeting that the draft agenda may contain too many items;
 - Given the time constraint, the Secretariat and Cosponsors will be able to present a more carefully prepared report in December.

Country case studies

- The Secretariat presented the four case studies that are currently under consideration: Eastern Europe; Tanzania; Guatemala, and Myanmar.
- The Bureau discussed the options being considered and agreed that:
 - While the Secretariat will ultimately select the two cases based on the quality of data available, preferably they will consist of one regional study and one national case study;
- The Secretariat will communicate the selected two country case studies at the next Bureau meeting.

Identification of key items to be subject to wider consultation

The Bureau was reminded of its role to identify 'key Board documents' that should be subject to wider consultation accompanied by a road map. The Bureau agreed that all key documents for the upcoming PCB meeting are already scheduled to undergo extensive consultations. The key items for the 30th PCB meeting are "Strategic Investment" and "Technical Support".

Review of PCB NGO participation in the PCB

- The Bureau considered and agreed the proposal by the Chair to address the pending PCB decision on 'Review of PCB NGO participation in the PCB' from the 20th meeting (June 2007) at the 31st PCB meeting in December. The Bureau recognized that there was not enough time to address key issues (e.g. scope, methodology, budget implications) and conduct the review in time for the June PCB meeting.

- The Bureau asked the Secretariat to prepare a draft concept note that includes options to consider.
- Given the importance of the work of the Communications and Consultation Facility (CF) for PCB NGOs, the Bureau requested an update on the selection process for a new host of the CF that is currently underway.
- PCB NGOs will discuss the issue further with the Chair and the Secretariat before the draft concept note is finalised.

Slight amendment to the annotation of the draft agenda

- The Bureau agreed to amendments to the annotation for 'Financial Reporting' to read as follows: *The Board will receive the financial report and audited financial statements for the 2010-2011 biennium as well as a financial management update as at 31 March 2012 for the 2012-2013 biennium, which includes a revised proposal for dealing with unfunded liabilities and possible approaches to address the impact of currency fluctuations as requested by the Board at its 28th and 29th meetings.*

6. Any other business

- The next Bureau meeting shall be held on Monday, 30 April (14:00-16:00 Geneva time).

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