

UNAIDS PCB NGO Delegation Communiqué

What is the PCB?

The Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) is the governing body of UNAIDS. It is made up of 22 voting Member States, the 10 Co-sponsors that make up the UNAIDS program, and 10 representatives of non-governmental organizations (one delegate and one alternate from 5 regions). For more details, including all background papers, you can visit <http://www.unaids.org/en/AboutUNAIDS/Governance/default.asp>

NGO DELEGATION

Africa

Cameroonian Network of Associations of People Living with HIV/AIDS (RECAP+): James Clovis Kayo, jamesckayo@yahoo.fr
Southern African Network of AIDS Service Organizations (SANASO): Mercy Machiya, mercymachiya@yahoo.com

Asia/Pacific

The 7 Sisters, Thailand: Vince Crisostomo, coordinator@7sisters.org
AntiAIDS Association, Kyrgyz Republic: Gulnara Kurmanova, gkurmanova@gmail.com

Europe

Russian Harm Reduction Network: Vitaly Djuma, vitaly@harmreduction.ru
Action Against AIDS, Germany: Sonja Weinreich, Sonja.Weinreich@eed.de

Latin America/Caribbean

Rede Latino-Americana de Redução de Danos (RELARD): Sandra Batista, sandrabatista@grupohumanar.com.br
Bolivian Network of people living with HIV/AIDS (REDBOL): Gracia Violeta Ross Quiroga, graciavioleta@gmail.com

North America

Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development, Canada: Michael O'Connor, info@icad-cisd.com
International Women's Health Coalition: Zonibel Woods, zonnyw@yahoo.co.uk

UNAIDS COSPONSORS

UNHCR

UNICEF

WFP

UNDP

UNFPA

UNODC

ILO

UNESCO

WHO

World Bank

What happened in the 22nd PCB meeting in Chiang Mai during the 23-25 April 2008?

“Two diseases but one person”

The three day meeting was preceded by one-day Thematic Session (proposed last year by the NGO delegation) on tuberculosis (TB) and HIV. More than 200 participants had the opportunity to hear panel sessions about:

- HIV and TB – joint impact and joint response
- Mobilizing community- and faith-based organizations in the joint response to HIV and TB
- Investment in HIV and TB and health systems strengthening

- Access to improved TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment for people living with HIV and the threat of TB drug resistance

Tuberculosis (TB) remains one of the most important causes of illness and death among people living with HIV, despite the fact that TB is mostly preventable and curable. At least 11 million people living with HIV are also infected with TB and at increased risk of developing TB disease. Chronic lack of investment in TB control programmes and TB research has resulted in inadequate prevention, diagnosis and treatment of TB and the development and spread of drug-resistant forms of TB that disproportionately affect people living with HIV. Furthermore, the TB programme in many countries can be a highly effective but often underutilized partner in accelerating towards universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. The point was made that it will be necessary to generate the same community response around TB as has developed around HIV, with ownership of people living with TB and people living with TB/HIV.

Key Decisions

After the thematic session, the PCB passed several decision points in the record of the meeting, which recognized the need to address the urgent threat that tuberculosis, particularly drug-resistant TB, poses to people living with HIV, and called upon Member States to mobilize community involvement, including faith-based organizations and affected communities, in addressing the prevention and treatment of TB in people living with HIV.

The PCB also requested that UNAIDS Secretariat and WHO establish relevant TB indicators in national AIDS action frameworks, which include the goal of reducing TB mortality in people living with HIV, and to work with partners to accelerate research and the development of better tools for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of TB in people living with HIV.

The PCB called upon the international community to address the resource gap for the prevention and treatment of TB in people living with HIV through its inclusion in the broader development agenda.

For a full list of adopted points, please see [final decision points](#):

http://data.unaids.org/pub/InformationNote/2008/20080425_pcb_finaldecisions_en.pdf.

Other Key Issues

NGO report

The NGO report dedicated a large part of its focus to issues surrounding TB-HIV co-infection. In addition, the PCB adopted a request of the NGO Delegation for the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UNAIDS Secretariat to begin work on HIV and Hepatitis C Virus co-infection and report back at a future Programme Coordinating Board meeting.

Given the great attention in Thailand around the government's potentially detrimental treatment of drug users, the NGO delegation reminded the Board of a decision taken at the 20th PCB in June 2007 to work at the national level to assist governments to scale up HIV prevention among injecting drug users, and to report back at the next meeting.

The NGO delegation requested that UNAIDS provide a report on the process of redrafting the Guidance Note on Sex Work and HIV and provide information as to when it will be made available to civil society representatives. We also requested that UNAIDS put the redrafted Guidance on the website to assure that it is in line with broad public sentiment.

To read the NGO report, please see:

http://data.unaids.org/pub/InformationNote/2008/20080311_item_17_report_by_ngo_rep_final_en.pdf

[Independent Commission on AIDS in Asia](#)

The Commission's report, which included widespread consultation with civil society and shows the diversity of the epidemics in Asia, was noted by the PCB. The PCB also adopted a recommendation introduced by the NGO Delegation to support similar commissions, beginning in the Caribbean region.

For more information and the report in full, please see:

http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/FeatureStories/archive/2008/20080326_asia_commission.asp

A new Executive Director of UNAIDS

Dr. Peter Piot will step down as director of UNAIDS in December 2008; therefore, a search committee is currently being formed to oversee the selection of his replacement. This PCB detailed the qualifications of the incoming director, including the need for experience with the developing world and civil society. The NGO delegation also supported the development of a scoring tool to more transparently evaluate candidates. The NGO Delegation was successful in demanding that the search committee should include at least one person living with HIV/AIDS.

[Gender sensitivity of the AIDS response](#)

Two years after the PCB formally recognized the need to address women and girls in the response to HIV, the 22nd PCB reviewed and took note of a guidance paper developed under the lead of UNDP, the cosponsor responsible for Gender under the UNAIDS division of labor. The document caused a controversy over its inclusion and then exclusion of "sexual minorities." After a unified statement by the NGO delegation pointing out the divisive nature of the process and the weaknesses of the final document, the PCB insisted on the urgency of addressing gender inequalities and the feminization of the epidemic, and the need to focus on scaling up work at country level. They also called for special attention and dedicated programming to address the needs of men who have sex with men, transgender, bisexual and lesbian populations. UNDP was announced to be the lead agency now responsible for men who have sex with men.

The PCB requested that UNAIDS take immediate action to develop specific tools to assist countries in planning, programming and implementing interventions in the context of HIV that address (1) women, girls and gender inequality, and (2) men who have sex with men, transgender, bisexual and lesbian populations. The NGO delegation made clear its position that both women and girls and sexual minorities deserve urgent attention.

Immediate next steps in the process involve the use of country pilots, and the PCB called on UNAIDS to use "expert" groups in the selection, implementation and evaluation of these pilots. The Board has requested an update at the next PCB meeting. One critical challenge is to include civil society in this process adequately and in particular the populations that will be affected by the implementation of these pilots and tools.

To read the guidance note that was discussed, please see:

http://data.unaids.org/pub/InformationNote/2008/20080308_item_2_gender_guidance_and_costed_action_plan_fi_en.pdf

Second Independent Evaluation of UNAIDS

Over the next year, UNAIDS will undergo a second independent evaluation. Independent Evaluations take place every 5 years are meant to determine if the actions in the programmatic level of UNAIDS are still accurate and relevant. The PCB made two decisions concerning the make up of an oversight committee for this evaluation.

1. The cosponsoring organizations will have a liaison to work with the committee but not sit on the committee itself.
2. Two seats of the oversight committee will be held by persons living openly with HIV. Since only one person has been found, a call for a second nominee will be issued immediately.

The NGO Delegation emphasized the point that it is not only the responsibility of civil society – as is often assumed – to include and nominate people living with HIV/AIDS thus implementing the GIPA principle, rather the onus is also on governments and co-sponsors.

MOU with the Global Fund

The PCB approved the updated Memorandum of Understanding with the Global Fund. Edits to the MOU should be forthcoming from UNAIDS and should be reviewed at the Global Fund board meeting. UNAIDS' relationship with the Global Fund will be the thematic topic of the next PCB meeting.

To read the MOU, please see:

http://data.unaids.org/pub/InformationNote/2008/20080304_item_5_mou_with_global_fund_final_en.pdf

Future meeting themes

The PCB approved the themes for the 23rd and 24th meetings of the Programme Coordinating Board. The 23rd meeting will focus on “The Relationship between UNAIDS and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: issues of relationships with the international technical support architecture and public private partnerships.” The 24th meeting will focus on “People on the move – forced displacement and migrant populations.” The segment on people of the move is part of the contributions of the NGO delegation to the PCB decisions. The NGO Delegation criticised the process of decision-making for the thematic issues, however supports the two themes. It made suggestions for future themes, i.e. new prevention technologies, HIV and food security and HIV and children.

What are the concrete gains for civil society coming out of this meeting?

- (1) More awareness on TB/HIV issues (especially in community mobilization)
- (2) Identification of some key points and trends in global policy (especially related to Asian report)
- (3) Maintaining UNAIDS accountable for Sex Work Guidance that takes into account the views of sex workers by keeping the issue on the agenda of the PCB
- (4) Specific work on gender equality and sexual minorities mandated by the PCB as a matter of urgency.
- (5) More questions about role and responsibility of NGOs in PCB UNAIDS

What is the Communication and Consultation Facility (CF)?

The PCB had endorsed the establishment of an Independent Communication and Consultation Facility (CF) to support the consulting and liaison work of the NGO delegation with the wider civil society constituency, at its June 2007 meeting. After a tender process, the NGO delegation selected a winning bid. The objective of the CF is to strengthen NGO participation – and support enhanced incorporation of country-level civil society voices in PCB-related dialogue. The CF came into existence in early April 2008 and will help to regularly keep you informed of PCB activities and decisions. The focal point is Sara Simon.

The CF developed from an independent evaluation of the role of civil society in the PCB that suggested several changes, including the voting rights and concrete support for liaison, outreach and consultation activities. While the request for voting rights was denied, the support for the CF was accepted.

How can you get involved?

You can write to your regional delegate or contact the Communications Facility at pcbfcf.ssimon@gmail.com for more information.

If you are interested in a particular area, please see below the PCB leads for upcoming work:

Committee	Lead
Next thematic meeting <i>The Relationship between UNAIDS and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria</i>	Sonja, Violeta, Michael, Vitaly, James
PCB Bureau	Sonja, Vince
Global Implementation Support Team (GIST)	Michael, Gulnara
Executive Director Selection committee	Zonny, , Violeta
Oversight committee for UNAIDS evaluation	Violeta
Recruitment of new delegates	Vitaly and Sandra

Notes on membership:

The NGO Delegation will undertake a recruitment process for new members this summer. We will be seeking Delegates from North America, Africa, and Latin America.

Zonibel Woods, the current alternate delegate for North America, will finish her term in December 2008 on the Delegation despite her upcoming change in job status. Zonny will be working with the Ford Foundation in the coming months, but will be representing the International Women's Health Coalition on the Delegation. She has the full support of her new employer and the rest of the Delegation in fulfilling this prior commitment to serve on the PCB NGO Delegation.