

Minutes of the 67th CCM meeting

October 21, 2013

Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs

Sandra Elisabeth Roelofs - CCM Chairperson , "SOCO Foundation"- Charity NGO

Mariam Jashi – Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, **on behalf**

of David Sergeenko - Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia

Nino Kochishvili – on behalf of **Philip Dimitrov** - Ambassador, Head of EU Delegation to Georgia

Zurab Vadachkoria - Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University

Tengiz Tsertsvadze - Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center, General Director

Khatuna Todadze - Research Institute on Addiction of the Center for Mental Health and Prevention of Addiction, Head

Mamuka Japaridze - National Center of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases, Director

Tamar Sirbiladze - USAID/Caucasus, Health and Social Development Office, Director

Lasha Tvaliashvili - Real People-Real Vision, Executive Director, (PTF)

Lasha Zaalishvili - Georgian Harm Reduction Network, Executive Director, (PTF)

Konstantine Labartkava - New Vector, Board Chairman, (PTF)

Maia Kavtaradze - GOPA /KFW, Project Coordinator

Rusudan Klimiashvili - WHO Georgia, Head of Country Office

Tamar Gabunia - USAID Georgia Tuberculosis Prevention Project, URC LLC, Chief of Party

Elguja Meladze - Employers' Association of Georgia, President

David Ananiashvili - "Georgian Plus Group", Director

Iza Bodokia - HIV/AIDS Patients Support Foundation, Director

Archil Talakvadze - Deputy Minister of Corrections and Legal Assistance

Nugzar Chitaia, on behalf of Ketevan Natriashvili - First Deputy Minister of Education and Science

Ketevan Tsikhelashvili - First Deputy State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration

Irma Khonelidze - Deputy Director, on behalf of **Amiran Gamkrelidze** - NCDC&PH, General Director

David Mikheil Shubladze – LGBT Georgia, Executive Director

Tamar Natriashvili – Former TB patient

Guests/Observers

Tsovinar Sakanyan - GFATM, Fund Portfolio Manager

Samantha Huffman –GFATM, Senior Program Officer

Eduard Yengibaryan – FA, Team Leader

Vasil Janjgava – FA team
 Arsen Aslanyan – UNOPS/LFA Team Leader in Georgia
 Mzia Tabatadze – UNOPS/LFA Senior M&E/Health Expert in Georgia
 Maia Baratashvili - GIMPHA

Secretariat:
 Eka Iashvili – TB Consultant/Executive Secretary
 Maia Tsereteli – HIV/AIDS Consultant
 Natia Khonelidze – Administrative Assistant

Agenda

13:00 – 13:10	Opening speech /remarks/ overview of the HIV/AIDS EECA GFATM strategy meeting (25-26 September, Geneva, Switzerland), visit to Drop-in Center (October 3, 2013) Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs, Chairperson of the CCM
13:10 - 13:20	Welcome speech /remarks Ms. Mariam Jashi, Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
13:20 – 13:30	Introduction/voting for new CCM members/Elections: Ms. Tamar Natriashvili - Former TB patient Mr. David Mikheil Shubladze - LGBT Georgia, Executive Director
13:30 – 13:40	“Provision of healthcare services for the residents of occupied territories” Ms. Ketevan Tsikhelashvili - First Deputy State Minister for Reintegration
13:40 – 13:50	Introduction of Fiscal Agent/ Mr. Eduard Yengibaryan Introduction of a new LFA team/Arsen Aslanyan, UNOPS, LFA Team Leader in Georgia
13:50– 14:20	Projects Implementation Status/ HIV/AIDS and TB Grants phase II planning/ discussion Ms. Maia Kavtaradze – GPIC, TB Program Manager, GOPA /KFW, Project Coordinator
14:20– 14:30	Cash Incentive Scheme/ NCDC as a new PR Ms. Tsovinar Sakanyan - Fund Portfolio Manager
14:30 – 14:45	Discussion
14:45 –15:05	The issue of overdoses among drug users/discussion/outcomes of EHRN Conference in Kachreti/ introduction of GHRN proposal

	Mr. Lasha Zaalishvili – Executive Director, Georgian Harm Reduction Network
15:05– 15:20	Brief Announcements/Questions and answers

Sandra E. Roelofs – greeted the participants, guests/observers of the meeting and thanked them for coming. The Chairperson overviewed the agenda and underlined the importance of the issues to be discussed. Afterwards the Chairperson outlined the important recent developments. Mrs. Roelofs announced that since UNAIDS has phased out from the country it is no longer a member of the CCM. The Chairperson stated that UNODC or IOM can be considered to be admitted to the CCM membership and addressed the audience with a request to submit their inputs and suggestions. Mrs. Roelofs welcomed Ms. Irma Khonelidze, Deputy Director of NCDCPH who will be responsible for GFATM grants and announced that the first findings and recommendations of the GFATM on elected PR will be known by October 25. Afterwards the Chairperson overviewed the issues and highlights of the consultations for planning and developing a Global Fund regional framework and a strategic plan for a sustained and evidence based HIV response in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) region held in September in Geneva, Switzerland. The Chairperson outlined the specificities of the countries within the EECA and the Global Fund's expectations and recommendations towards the Region. Mrs. Roelofs noted that she had a meeting with Prof. Kazatchkine, UN Secretary Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in EECA/a member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy who had extended his warm regards and an enthusiastic support to Georgia. Speaking of the EECA Constituency meeting held in Geneva within the framework of the Regional Consultations Mrs. Roelofs presented to the attendees the idea of establishing a Technical Support Office for EECA Constituency. The office would be based in the Balkans and would act as a technical support platform for the Constituency. The Chairperson outlined her meeting with the representatives of Eurasian Harm Reduction network in Vilnius. The Chairperson reminded to the audience that EHRN had been invited by the GFATM as an early applicant under New Funding Model and Georgia was one of five countries applying for funding within the regional initiative. Afterwards Mrs Roelofs focused on the meeting held in a Drop-In-Center (a project supported by the MDM) for drug addicts on October 3, 2013 where the acute issues faced by drug users in Georgia were thoroughly discussed. Mrs. Roelofs briefly overviewed EHRN national seminar held in Kachreti, on October 15-17 and announced that outcomes of the meeting would be presented at the meeting later on. Mrs. Roelofs stated that as it was communicated to the CCM earlier the CCM's Funding request will be proceeded in concert with the decisions made at Kachreti. Afterwards, Mrs Roelofs announced that she herself will be participating at the "Development of a Global Fund TB strategic investment framework in EECA" Regional Consultation, which will

take place at WHO EURO Office in Copenhagen, Denmark on 13th of November 2013. Finally, the Chairperson focused on the issue of strengthening of CCM oversight functions as one of the GFATM Board conditions and updated the audience on the steps undertaken in this direction (GIZ and GMS Consultancies). The Chairperson gave the floor to **Ms. Jashi**.

Mariam Jashi – greeted the participants and expressed her deep gratitude to the GFATM Country team for valuable support that in a great extent ensured Board's approval for additional funding for second implementation period. Ms. Jashi, on behalf of the MoLHSA addressed all CCM member and the stakeholders with the request to mobilize all resources to ensure that the Board Conditions are met within the deadline, transition is successfully implemented and a robust mechanism for effective grant implementation is put in place. Ms. Jashi underlined the importance of a close involvement of the CCM and other stakeholders during the grant negotiation process. The Deputy Minister underlined that the CCM structure, membership, oversight functions can be revisited once again at the next meetings in order to be sure that all CCM requirements and recommendations are followed. She expressed the readiness of the MoLHSA to assist and facilitate the process and highlighted the importance of the involvement of the GFATM country team. Finally, Ms. Jashi briefed the audience on the recent revision and amendments made in the law on Donation of Blood and Its Components that brought Georgian Legislation on Safe Blood closer to the US and European countries legislation.

Sandra E. Roelofs – introduced two candidacies for CCM membership. Ms Tamar Natriashvili – former TB patient nominated by NTP and Mr. David Mikhail Shubladze - Executive Director of LGBT Georgia, nominated by PTF under the fourth mandate for two year rotational period. The Chairperson put to the vote the issues of admission to the membership of afore-mentioned nominees.

Ms. Tamar Natriashvili and Mr. David Mikhail Shubladze were elected as CCM members by vast majority of presented CCM Members.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the floor to **Ms. Ketevan Tsikhelashvili**.

Ketevan Tsikhelashvili – presented to the audience the current status of healthcare services in the occupied territories stating that providing healthcare services to the population of those territories represents an important part/main dimension of the State Engagement Strategy and an Action Plan (presentation attached). The rapporteur outlined three main facets of healthcare direction of the engagement policy: **free medical treatment of persons residing in the occupied regions under the State Referral Program; supply of medicines through Liaison Mechanism; funding of local hospitals and emergency services.** While speaking of the treatment component Ms. Tsikhelashvili outlined the procedures of dealing with applications

from individuals residing in the occupied regions. She noted that the Government of Georgia finances the treatment of persons crossing the occupation line to receive state-sponsored medical treatment mainly in Tbilisi, Zugdidi and Kutaisi hospitals under the State Referral Program administered by the MoLHSA. The receipt of medical treatment by the population of the occupied territories is not conditioned by the possession of any specific document and efforts to make the process as less bureaucratic as possible are made. Afterwards the rapporteur focused on decrease of the number of beneficiaries compared with the year of 2012 and specified the reasons that will be thoroughly discussed at Geneva Talks. Ms. Tsikhelashvili outlined the second component of the healthcare direction and stated that the Government of Georgia delivers medicines and treatment services, including various immunization and other vaccines, medicine for tuberculosis and diabetes medications to the occupied region of Abkhazia. The data were presented. While presenting funding of the local hospitals and emergency services in Abkhazia region by the Government of Georgia the State Deputy Minister noted that the funding for the year of 2013 remained unchanged in comparison with 2012. As an example of the support from the Government of Georgia a recent case of handing out two ambulance vehicles through the assistance of UNDP for the improvement of medical assistance in Abkhazia region was presented. Ms. Tsikhelashvili presented to the audience other healthcare issues and stated that: under the GFATM grant funds are directed at the operation of Sukhumi AIDS center, testing and treatment of HIV/AIDS; in February 2013, the Government of Georgia launched the State Program of Universal Healthcare that guarantees free of charge medical insurance for the entire population, including of the occupied regions. The Program covers all age categories and is complementary to the state health insurance program launched earlier in September 2012; total funding of healthcare component in 2013 equalled approximately to 2 million GEL.

Maia Baratashvili – added that Union Tanadgoma implements several projects in the region of Abkhazia including two components funded by the GFATM and USAID/UNDP. Ms. Baratashvili noted that the organization provides full services related to ARV treatment through the AIDS Center in Sukhumi. Thus she expressed a notion that a decrease of the number of patients travelling from Abkhazia might be related to improved local services as well. Ms. Baratashvili presented some activities of the projects noting that detailed data can be presented at the next meetings.

Ketevan Tsikhelashvili – highlighted the importance of the continuation of providing healthcare services that should be reflected in every State Program.

Mariam Jashi – thanked Ms. Tsikhelashvili for the comprehensive information. Afterwards, Ms Jashi focused on a lack of accountability from the sides of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and

called upon more technical discussions to consolidate all health related issues, including the activities supported by the donors for addressing this issue.

Nino Kochishvili – added that EU is among big donors providing support for the population of the occupied regions.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the floor to **Mr. Eduard Yengebaryan**.

Eduard Yengibaryan – introduced himself and stated the responsibilities of the FA team have not been changed with his appointment and the main task is still assisting current and elected PR in smooth implementation of a transition.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the floor to **Mr. Arsen Aslanyan**.

Arsen Aslanyan – briefly presented UNOPS and stated that currently the role of the LFA is mainly focused on assessment of the elected PR; starting from the next year fully established LFA team will implement all activities assigned to the LFA.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the floor to **Ms. Kavtaradze**.

Maia Kavtaradze – overviewed the current status of GFATM grants. The rapporteur presented to the audience the following issues of TB grant: the tender on procurement of Health Products has been finalized and the process of identification of the winner is on-going in collaboration with NCTLD. Delivery of the products is anticipated within the next month period and the quantity will cover the needs of the year 2014. The agreement on procurement of anti-TB drugs was signed with IDA Foundation and the money transfer will be made directly from GFATM Secretariat. The drugs will arrive by the end of October; the first instalment is planned for December, 2013. Thus for entire 2014 the needs for second-line anti-TB drugs and 50% need for first-line drugs of the 2015 will be covered. The HIV/AIDS grant issues were specified as follows: on August 23, 2013 an implementation letter was signed and the same day the contracts with SRs were signed. Procurement of Health Products was done through open, competitive tenders. The procurement of Rapid Tests and syringes due to its urgency was done through quotation. Part of the Health Products has been already delivered to the SRs, remaining part will be delivered before mid of November. The GFATM Secretariat is about to sign a quotation for VPP and a direct disbursement will be done through the Secretariat. Afterwards the rapporteur focused on a new Grant Agreement and stated that the current PR is collaborating with the elected PR for a smooth transition and expressed readiness to support the new PR in grant negotiations for grant renewals.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the floor to **Mr Mamuka Japaridze**.

Mamuka Japaridze – raised an issue of surgery among TB affected infants that is assigned to the NCTLD and stated that NCTLD does not acquire a licence, staff and proper infrastructure for conducting surgery. Thus, as per Law on Procurement they are obliged to announce a tender for each case. He addressed Ms. Jashi with the request to find a proper solution that might be for instance transfer of this component of the State Program from NCTLD to one of the clinics.

Mariam Jashi – added that the mechanism of a referral program can make ensure the facilitation of the issue and urged Mr. Japaridze to address the Ministry with an official letter for timely proceeding.

Maia Kavtaradze – addressed Ms. Jashi with the request to facilitate the issue of permission for the drug Paser.

Lasha Zaalishvili – addressed Ms. Kavtaradze with a question regarding the drug Naloxone.

Maia Kavtaradze - responded that due to the fact that all tenders were successfully conducted emergence of any problem is highly unlikely.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the floor to **Ms. Tsovinar Sakanyan**.

Tsovinar Sakanyan – briefly outlined the background of a cash incentive scheme that was introduced to replace food voucher program terminated following the findings and recommendations of OIG in January, 2013. A thorough review of the incentive scheme proposal has revealed that several months would be needed for start up stage. The rapporteur noted that the Secretariat recommends to implement a Scheme under the supervision of the new PR. Ms Sakanyan noted that a letter to the CCM with request to mobilize the efforts and find solutions to resolve possible legal and financial bottlenecks was issued. The main areas of concern under NCDC's implementation: possible tax implications; possible legal implications to fulfil the reimbursement of the patients who had adhered to treatment since January 2013; the set up of the scheme itself that should be designed to ensure its appropriate implementation under the second implementation period. Ms. Tsakanyan considered approval for the commitment of the first phase to be shifted to the phase 2 to be a good achievement. The Fund Portfolio Manager noted that currently the process of brainstorming and costing of the scheme is on-going in close cooperation with FA and NCDC thus at this stage it would be very premature to go further into details. Ms. Sakanyan presented a preliminary schedule of assessment of NCDC and stated that by the end of the week the Secretariat will have a clear vision of the directions that might be undertaken in terms of filling identified gaps that might include engagement/involvement of other agencies for providing Technical Assistance. Ms Sakanyan expressed her sincere appreciation and gratitude towards the current PR for their continuing support and collaboration. Fund Portfolio Manager personally thanked Ms. Maia Kavtaradze for her hard work and valuable support and highly assessed her knowledge, expertise and

commitment. Special thanks were extended to NCDC. Finally, Ms. Sakanyan underlined the importance of cooperation and effective communication between the parties involved.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the floor to **Ms. Jashi**.

Mariam Jashi – underlined the importance to manage a recruitment of the PIU staff through transparent tender process to ensure that all qualified candidates included eligible ones from current PR and those who are not involved in the process of the implementation of the Global Fund's grants have equal possibilities for applying. For this purpose the MoLHSA and NCDC will be establishing a Board that oversee the staff recruitment. CCM members especially NGOs are welcomed to participate in the process as observers or members of the Board. The vision on the recruitment process will be officially communicated by the MoLHSA. GFATM and LFA are welcomed to participate as well. The communication with the GFATM Secretariat will be held.

Sandra E. Roelofs – responded that the CCM will participate with pleasure at least as an observer and gave the floor to Ms. Khonelidze for the comments.

Irma Khonelidze – referred to the issue of cash incentive scheme namely to the issue of the reimbursement of the patients of 2013 and stated that in order to go through all legal procedures an official letter from the GFATM or a precise line in the contract will be needed. Afterwards NCDC will seek CCM's support for further coordination of the issue with the government. Ms. Khonelidze stated that a precise timing of commencement of the Cash Incentive Scheme represents a matter of paramount importance in terms of dealing with tax implications and other legal issues. NCDC fully agrees with the notion on necessity of conducting the recruitment in an open and transparent manner as prescribed by the current legislation and involvement of the CCM, LFA and other parties is welcomed.

Lasha Zaalishvili – referred to the issue of the recruitment and stated that they have received a letter from Fund Portfolio Manager requiring the involvement of the CCM and namely affected communities in the process. He stated that to his understanding the process should be led by the CCM with involvement of the MoLHSA versus to the notion expressed by the Deputy Minister and addressed her with a request for further explanations. He stated that a group can be formed even today without any delay.

Mariam Jashi – stated that a decisive factor is a full compliance with current regulations and legislation and recruitment of highly qualified staff. Taking into account the fact that as NCDC represents a legal entity under the MoLHSA it seems more feasible to manage a process through Minister's order.

Mamuka Japaridze – stated that a decision body in the process of the recruitment should be NCDC itself. Involvement of other parties should be limited by participation in the elaboration of minimum requirements and observation of the process itself.

Mariam Jashi – stated that the tools and mechanism can be further discussed and agreed. She reiterated that the Ministry only welcomes a board representation of the stakeholders. The balance should be redressed within the selection committee, besides existing precedents and experience of international organizations where representatives of other agencies are involved with consultative and/or voting rights whether the decision is made by the organization itself can be taken into consideration.

Lasha Zaalishvili – expressed his satisfaction with the fact that community organizations are admitted to CCM membership and noted that they should be involved in all stages of grant implementation and in grant management. He noted that community organizations have requested to be admitted to the NCDC Board though the response was that the Board is formed by the Government agencies and thus they can be represented in the Scientific Board. Mr. Zaalishvili strongly opposed this notion stating that Scientific Board is not involved in grant management. He reiterated that implementing agencies should be more involved and expressed a notion of their admission to the Oversight Committee.

Tamar Sirbiladze – based on her 20 year experience of working in the development area and as a representative of one of the largest donor organization strongly opposed involvement of implementing agencies in any governing body of the grant issuing organization due to a Col. Ms. Sirbiladze explained that procurement integrity can be only ensured if a potential recipient is never ever a part of the organization giving out the grant; the same rule applies for them being a part of the Selection Committee. As for recruitment of the PIU staff Ms. Sirbiladze stated that by electing of the PR CCM delegated to them responsibilities and thus automatically acknowledge their capability to recruit a highly qualified staff. The CCM's role can be only within discussion of the procedures, staff number, ToRs etc. In case of any doubt the CCM can always use its veto right.

Irma Khonelidze – explained that as prescribed by the Charter of NCDC as of a legal entity of the Public Law the Director is appointed by the Ministry, Deputy Director is appointed by the Director in agreement with the Ministry, as for other staff members they are appointed by the organization itself. Ms. Khonelidze noted that there are number of other bylaws regulating these issues. She reiterated NCDC's readiness to invite any member of the CCM nominated by the Chairperson, any member of LFA, representative(s) of the Ministry to participate in the process however, according to the legislation, the right to make a decision lies within the NCDC. Responsible for implementation is also the NCDC as a grant signing party.

Mariam Jashi – stated that the Ministry as overarching organization including NCDC is ready to facilitate involvement of the CCM member(s), LFA in the status allowed by the legislation. The Deputy Minister stated that according to the legislation appointment of all staff of the NCDC is cleared by the Ministry which means that the Ministry is directly engaged in the process. She thanked Ms Sirbiladze for raising the issue of a Col with regard to participation of SRs in the PR management structures. She seconded Mr. Gamkrelidze's notion on possible involvement of NGOs in the Advisory Board as a Scientific Committee of the NCDC which is allowed by the legislation. The Deputy Minister stated that the CCM members will be clearly engaged in the Oversight Committee and the Ministry is ready to facilitate the process.

Tsovinar Sakanyan – stated that CCM is fully responsible for oversight of the grant implementation. The CCM with its CCM oversight committee should be the body overseeing grant implementation. Creation of new structures of oversight and advisory is not necessary and represents a waste of energy. The CCM is the place to have an oversight and advisory groups, committees, working groups for implementation of its functions. The reforms should be done within CCM to ensure very good and transparent oversight with proper documents and policy developed which will be sufficient to ensure good advisory and oversight. The Fund Portfolio Manager clearly stated that any implementing agencies should not be presented into OC due to a Col. In order to ensure fulfilment of the Board Condition on creation of the Oversight Plan and Oversight Committee the CCM Secretariat is working on applying for receiving a technical assistance from GIZ.

Samantha Huffman - In response to the question of the Board Condition on the TB strategy stated that one of the concerns of Grant Approval Committee was the absence of the **single body responsible for oversight and ownership of the TB Program**. Besides National TB strategy that was developed but not fully approved does not provide clear division of roles and responsibilities between NTP and NCDC. Ms. Huffman expressed her hope that the progress in this direction will be made and the GFATM will have more clarity on this issue.

Sandra E. Roelofs – stated that there is good news that the country does not have to nominate afore mentioned body before December 31, 2013. The Chairperson gave the floor to Mr. Zaalishvili (presentation attached).

Lasha Zaalishvili – presented to the audience the main aspects of the Georgian Legislation in relation to overdoses with illicit drugs. He stated that zero tolerance triggered drug users to act underground and use hand-made drugs (mainly desomorphine) which in its turn caused increased cases of overdoses. Moreover the cases of sharing needle/syringes are observed. The rapporteur referred to the Ministerial Decree N239/N (MOHLSA) and stated that the criminalized legislative base is the main factor of underreporting of the overdose. Ms. Zaalishvili mentioned stigmatized approach to the drug users established in the society as one

of the factors aggravating the problem. He noted that overdose is not covered by any specific regulation. Charges are pressed against overdosed person under the 45th article of the Code of Administrative Offences which foresees a monetary penalty. If this occurs repeatedly, article 273 of the Criminal Code would be applied which foresees monetary penalty as well as imprisonment. Afterwards the rapporteur presented to the audience results of the study conducted among 202 IDUs. He touched the issues of overdose frequency, actions taken during overdose. He underlined that in 55% (60) of cases no qualified medical aid was offered. Among the reasons of non-qualified medical aid the fear of the police is on the leading position. Data on risky behavior revealed during the study were presented. Afterwards the rapporteur presented to the audience the description of the opioid antagonist Naloxone and underlined its importance. Mr. Zaalishvili presented to the audience following recommendations: clear distinction of the crime from public health issues has to be made on legislative level; registration and diagnosis of drug addiction shall be simplified; drug addiction treatment shall be accessible and be covered by state (as foreseen by the law) and access to free of charge substitution treatment shall be increased; drug use covered under article 273 shall be decriminalized. Afterwards practical steps to be undertaken were outlined: awareness campaign, information material, meetings; cooperation with the law enforcers and communication with medical staff; collecting of additional information on accessibility and use of Naloxone and dissemination of this information among People using Drugs (PUDs). He reiterated the importance of Naloxone and having in place decriminalized legislation.

Sandra E. Roelofs – reminded to Mr. Zaalishvili his own statements made during a meeting held in “New Vector” on monetary reimbursement of the policemen for arresting IDUS that is additional factor motivating the police on revealing IDUs.

Lasha Zaalishvili – briefed the audience on the mortality rate caused by overdoses.

David Ananiashvili – raised the issue of possible prohibition of over-the-counter selling of the medicines which are used for producing of hand-made drugs.

Lasha Zaalishvili – stated that it is unrealistic to create a totally free form drugs society

Mariam Jashi – responded that as per recent legislative changes starting from 2014 the drugs will be more strictly categorized as over-the-counter and used only by the doctors’ prescription*. She stated that proper law execution has no less importance that having in place proper policy. Afterwards she referred to the interagency working group established under the Ministry of Justice with the purpose of development of a new package of legislation.

Tamar Sirbiladze – stated that work is ongoing within the group and that it is mainly directed towards decriminalization of the current legislation.

Khatuna Todadze – addressed MoLHSA to apply to MoIA with the request to come up with a new initiative regulating the issue of overdoses.

Mariam Jashi – agreed with such request.

Lasha Zaalishvili – presented to the audience so called Good Samaritan Law that acts offering legal protection to people who give reasonable assistance to those who are injured, ill, in peril, or otherwise incapacitated. He referred to the internal regulations which were in place during the previous government that in a good extent improved seeking of a qualified medical aid during the overdose.

Konstantine Labartkava – stated that huge work should be undertaken in order to avoid any complications of the implementation of the Harm Reduction programs. He referred to the approach of the MoIA towards drug users and pointed out to its discriminative nature.

Lasha Zaalishvili – reminded to the audience that at the previous, 66th CCM meeting Regional Funding Request by the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network was endorsed. The rapporteur presented to the audience GHRN proposal and outlined the structure of the GHRN. The main concept, objectives and expected results of the proposal were presented to the audience. Afterwards the rapporteur explained the procedure of proceeding of the application.

Mariam Jashi – declared that any initiatives than can help scaling up of prevention activities especially among high risk groups are very much welcomed. She noted that before formal approval the whole proposal should be thoroughly studied in order to avoid any duplication with already proposed activities under the GFATM grant.

Lasha Zaalishvili – agreed with the Deputy Minister and further explained that an early application&a concept note developed with involvement of all NGO sector is given to the attention of the audience. The second phase envisages an elaboration of a whole proposal that will be widely discussed.

Sandra E. Roelofs – stated that Regional Network was invited to participate in the application and involvement of Georgia is highly welcomed. The Chairperson highlighted the importance of the proposal.

Afterwards the budget of the regional proposal and its distribution among participating countries were discussed.

CCM members did not express any objections towards presented concept note.

Sandra E. Roelofs - opened the floor for brief announcement.

It was announced that MoLHSA was invited to participate at the International Conference dedicated to the 35th anniversary of the Alma-Aty Declaration of WHO / UNICEF primary health care scheduled for 6-7 November 2013 in Almaty.

A detailed explanation was given to Mr. Zaalishvili in response to his enquiry regarding CCM Funding Request both from CCM Secretariat and GFATM Secretariat sides. It was mentioned that it was the very first time that country would apply for funding under the expanded window thus an extra consultancy might be needed. It was stated that the budget as usual will be thoroughly discussed and endorsed by the whole CCM.

Sandra E. Roelofs – announced that on 9 November 2013 annual meeting of Georgian International Medical and Public Health Association (GIMPHA) will be held in Paris. Detailed information is placed on the GIMPHA web-site.

Mr. Zaalishvili on behalf of the attendees thanked Mrs. Roelofs for donating her autobiographic books.

Sandra E. Roelofs – thanked the members and observers for having attended and announced the meeting as closed.

Decisions:

To admit to the CCM membership:

Ms. Tamar Natriashvili - Former TB patient

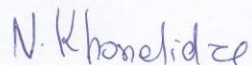
Mr. David Mikheil Shubladze - LGBT Georgia, Executive Director

Sandra Elisabeth Roelofs



Chairperson

Natia Khonelidze



Administrative Assistant