

Minutes of the 72nd CCM Meeting
August 1, 2014

Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs

David Sergeenko - Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs, CCM Chair

Amiran Gamkrelidze - – General Director of National Center for Disease Control and Public Health

Archil Talakvadze - Deputy Minister of Corrections of Georgia, EECA Constituency Communication Focal Point

Nugzar Chitaia – on behalf of Ms. Ketevan Natriashvili, First Deputy Minister of Education and Science

Nino Kochishvili - on behalf of Mr. Philip Dimitrov, EU Delegation to Georgia, Head, Ambassador

Zurab Vadachkoria – Tbilisi State Medical University, Rector

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

Khatuna Todadze - Center for Mental Health and Prevention of Addiction, Head

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

Lasha Tvaliashvili - Real People – Real Vision, Executive Director

Lasha Zaalishvili – GHRN, Executive Director

Giorgi Soselia - on behalf of Konstantine Labartkava – New Vector, Board Chairman

Rusudan Klimiashvili – WHO, Head of Country Office

Tamar Gabunia - URC, LCC; USAID funded Georgia Tuberculosis Prevention Project, Chief of Party

Elguja Meladze - Employers’ Association of Georgia, President

David Ananiashvili - “Georgian plus Group”, Director

Izoleta Bodokia - HAPS Fund, Director

Lela Bakradze - Chair, UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, UNFPA Assistant Representative

Secretariat:

Eka Iashvili – Executive Secretary

Natia Khonelidze – Administrative Assistant

Agenda

15:00 – 15:10	Opening speech /remarks Mr. David Sergeenko , CCM Chair, Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia CCM Chair
15:10 – 15:15	Election/voting for Ms Lela Bakradze – Chair, UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, UNFPA Assistant Representative in Georgia as of CCM Member
15:15 – 15:25	Report of the CCM Vice Chair Selection Ad Hoc Committee/making of a decision
15:25-15:35	Lessons learned from the first TRP review of concept notes under NFM Mr. Archil Talakvadze – Deputy Minister of Corrections of Georgia/ EECA Constituency Focal Point
15:35 – 15:45	Report of the Oversight Committee/Transfer of GPIC assets – presenting of the recommendation Mr. David Ananiashvili – “Georgia Plus Group”, Director/Chair of the Oversight Committee
15:45 – 16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global Fund Projects implementation status• Presenting the Plan on the process of NFM preparation/reaching an agreement• Current status of TB cash incentive scheme• The sum to be envisaged in the 2015-2017 State Budget under "Willingness to Pay Requirements" of NFM and its reflection in MTEF Ms. Irma Khonelidze – NCDCPH, Deputy Director
16:00 – 16:05	The application to French 5% Initiative for requesting Technical Assistance for HIV/AIDS concept note development Natia Khonelidze – Administrative Assistant

16:05 – 16:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Establishment of the Committee for Selection of an Executive Secretary/Technical Advisor</p> <p>AOB/Announcements</p>
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David Sergeenko – greeted the participants and thanked them for coming. The Chairperson suggested to be more focused on the issues of the strategic developments from now on. Afterwards he gave the floor to Ms. Mariam Jashi to present updates/recent changes in the regulatory framework.

Marian Jashi – presented to the audience the decision jointly made by MoLHSA, Ministry of Corrections, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Youth and Sport. The order of the Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs amending Order #239/N of 2001 was prepared and will be signed next week. Ms. Jashi considered the change to be the first step undertaken towards the liberalization of the drug policy. While speaking of this legislative change the Deputy Minister stated that the effective tool for advocating and decision making came into force with election of the Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs as CCM Chairperson. The participants gave the high regards to the progressive change. The audience applauded.

David Sergeenko - stated that regulatory changes envisage the funding of emergency medical services in case for overdoses throughout the territory of Georgia. The Chairperson raised the issue of admittance of Ms. Lela Bakradze, Chair of UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, UNFPA Assistant Representative in Georgia to the CCM membership.

Ms. Lela Bakradze was unanimously admitted to CCM membership by all presented members.

David Sergeenko – gave the floor to the members of the CCM Vice Chair Selection Ad Hoc Committee

Rusudan Klimiashvili – presented in details the process of the selection that had been already communicated to and agreed with the members electronically at the different stages of the process. No objections from the members were received neither related to the process itself nor to the nominated candidacy of Ms. Gabunia. The feedback received from the members so far was very much positive. The rapporteur underlined that the competence, personal features and experience of the nominated candidate greatly contribute to the work of the CCM. Ms. Klimiashvili addressed the members of the Committee and all attendees with the request to provide additional comments and express their points of view.

David Ananiashvili – stated that not only gender balance is observed but what is the most important in line with the GF guidelines the nominated candidate represents the sector

different from the Sector represented by the Chair. He stated that the person nominated is totally free from the CoI.

The latter notion was seconded by the CCM.

The forms of COI were filled out and signed by the members.

Tengiz Tsertsvadze – based on the personal experience of having close working relationship with Tamar Gabunia gave the highest possible ranking of her professional and personal qualities. Prof. Tsertsvadze stated that Ms. Gabunia is very much capable to the position of the CCM Vice-Chair and to any high position in healthcare sector.

David Sergeenko – positively assessed the outcomes of the selection process and reaction of the CCM members.

Ms. Tamar Gabunia was unanimously elected by the CCM as CCM Vice-Chair.

The document of CCM approval attached.

David Sergeenko – gave the floor to Mr. Ananiashvili

David Ananiashvili - updated audience on the work undertaken by the Oversight Committee during the recent period. He stated that some visits to the SRs were done. Mr. Ananiashvili highlighted that the OC will continue close cooperation with PR, SRs and SSRs. Afterward the rapporteur presented one more time to the audience the acute issues of grants close out with specific focus on the transfer of GPIC remaining non-cash assets procured under GFATM grants. The issue had been communicated to the all CCM in details. The list of remaining assets was distributed among SRs and SSRs. Only two SR-organizations expressed their interest. Tanadgoma after the consultations revoked its request. As for GHRN it was agreed that requested by them the license to ERP system – 1 will be handed to them after close out of the two grants under GPIC implementation. Two meetings of the OC with involvement of interested parties and separate meetings with SRs were held. The issue was in detail communicated internally within OC, with the CCM members and with the GFATM. Mr. Ananiashvili proposed to leave non-cash assets, which were not transferred to NCDC and are not valuable for other project implementing entities to GPIC. One more meeting of the OC can be convened. The slides visualizing the list of assets were shown to the audience. After that Mr. Ananiashvili brought attention of the audience to the issue of safe storing of Global Fund Projects implementation documentation that is currently kept by GPIC and requested the facilitation of the decision in this regard.

The discussion followed. All aspects of the issues were discussed it was generally agreed that the issue will be further discussed with relevant ministerial units.

David Sergeenko – gave the floor to Ms. Khonelidze

Irma Khonelidze – presented to the audience the aspects of “Willingness to Pay” component of the GFATM NFM describing Georgia’s eligibility and presenting defined minimum additional domestic contribution for the “WTP” component. The rapporteur briefed the audience on the total increased government’s allocation amounts envisaged for both components in the coming years. The projection was made by NCDC as implementing agency of the HIV and TB state programs in coordination with the MoLHSA. After extensive discussion and final endorsement the increased government’s contribution to be reflected in the MTF. Afterwards the detailed budget breakdown will be reflected in the state budgets of the respective years. Ms. Khonelidze discussed in details the mechanism of the procurement

Amiran Gamkrelidze – briefly presented to the audience current expenditures (resulting from the implementing standards of treatment and prevention) from the GFATM and government’s resource allocation for TB and HIV components and projection for the coming years. The GFATM and government funding is almost equal in terms of TB program while GFATM financing of HIV program is significantly higher in comparison with the government. In addition the end date of the current TB grant is June 2016 while HIV program ends in December 2015. The rapporteur referred to the issue of progressive changes in the treatment standards e.g emergency of new prequalified drugs and highlighted the importance of preserving current mechanism of the procurement. Dr. Gamkrelidze stated that the prognosis of the MTF was done in consultations with Ministry of Finance and expressed his hope for the Government ‘support which is especially important taking into account the significant amount to be allocated by the government in response to the GAFTM requirements and in a future perspective of it gradual phase out from the country. He also expressed his hope for the continuous support from the GFATM even in a smaller scale than at the given period. The government’s contribution should be increased year by year. Mr. Gamkrelidze stated that issue should be brought to the highest level e.g Minister of finance and Minister of Health.

David Sergeenko – agreed with the importance of the issue discussed and stated that the specially established working group should develop a document reflecting the issues of the funding during this transitional period. Ms. Mariam Jashi to supervise the implementation of this task. The document will be presented to the Minister of Finance and brought to the Government.

Amiran Gamkrelidze – responded that the first draft of the document has been already developed.

Tengiz Tsertsvadze – agreed with the importance of increased domestic funding for both diseases. Afterwards, Prof. Tsertsvadze focused on the specifics of AIDS especially dramatic increase in newly detected cases and stated that the state budget should have reflect this

peculiarity in terms of increased funding. Prof. Tsertsvadze mentioned that this issue was brought by him while discussed the stated budget during the previous years though it was not given a due consideration by the relevant authorities.

Lela Bakradze – raised an issue of a paramount importance of the prevention activities in AIDS response. This notion was enthusiastically seconded by Prof. Tsertsvadze.

David Sergeenko – stated that the importance of prevention activities is not questionable. The Minister stated that recent endeavors of the MoLHSA to introduce new regulations of safety standards in the dental services triggered negative reaction from the Dental association. The Minister noted that in such cases the support from CCM members is very important.

George Soselia - addressed Ms. Khonelidze with the question regarding using of the advantages of VPP (importing into the country without registration) in terms of state procurement and the steps undertaken in connection with registration and licensing of the drugs used according to the current scheme of treatment and if any mechanisms for reducing the prices are being considered to be used.

David Sergeenko – responded that the issue raised by Mr. Soselia is one of the important direction of the Strategy that is currently under finalization as a part of government's commitment in its aspiration towards Europe integration.. The Minister stated that the Strategy in whole will be presented upon its finalization most probably in the autumn.

Irma Khonelidze – responded that GDF mechanism will be used for TB drugs. As for VPP (PPM) it is not finally defined and hopefully with the GFATM support consent will be secured. She specified that VPP does not envisage import of the drugs without registration that is regulated by other mechanisms.

Elguja Meladze – stressed the importance of proper regulations in terms of safety standards to minimize the associated risks. The Association will support all endeavors of the Ministry undertaken in this direction.

Lasha Zaalishvili – stressed the importance of prevention activities among MARPs and stated that in current repressive regulatory frameworks the only mean to reach those groups is through implementation of Harm Reduction Programs. He addressed the Minister that the Committee that will work on prioritization of the issues during the transitional period from Donors' to

Government's support should take into consideration the utmost importance of Harm Reduction Programs.

Irma Khonelidze – updated the audience on the current status of implementation of cash incentive scheme for TB patients. Within the coming week the patients will receive the first money transfer. Among MDR patients' adherence to the treatment was revealed in 70%. Ms. Khonelidze stated according to the Social Service Agency 18 beneficiaries of the cash incentive scheme are registered in the database of those living under the poverty line and addressed the Minister with the request to further regulation of the issue.

David Sergeenko – responded that this issue will be easily regulated by the Government's resolution and in direct coordination with the Deputy Minister, Zaza Sopromadze.

David Sergeenko – gave the floor to Natia Khonelidze

Natia Khonelidze – provided the audience with the current status of TA on CCM EPA approved by the French 5% Initiative and TA on dashboard to be provided by GIZ. Afterwards the rapporteur raised an issue of endorsement by the CCM the application to French 5% Initiative on TA for development of the HIV/AIDS concept note. The application was elaborated with the involvement of NCDC and OC and submitted to all members prior to the meeting. She stated that in case of the consent of the CCM the application that will reflect additional comments of the members will be sent to the Embassy of France by mid August.

It was decided that the application will be circulated among the members for additional comments if any and submitted to French 5% Initiative by mid August.

Natia Khonelidze – raised an issue of preparation of NFM planning document. An example of the document for one of the countries, describing the processes for preparation to Concept note writing and submission was shared with the Secretariat by FPM in July with the request to widely distribute it, to use it as a starting point for elaboration of country specific document. The rapporteur addressed the audience with the request to develop and submit to the GFATM the planning document within the coming week.

Tamar Gabunia – stated that the document will be elaborated though the potential sources for HIV concept note development are not finally identified yet. While TA for TB concept note development is defined and will be done with USAID assistance.

David Sergeenko -stressed the importance of initiating the working process for the concept notes development and ask Ms. Gabunia to coordinate the process.

Tengiz Tsretsvadze – brought the attention of the audience to the urgent need to revise HIV/AIDS NSP. Prof. Tsretsvadze stated that more strategic issues of both diseases should be brought to the agenda of the CCM meeting that have not been done recently substituted with procedural issues.

Lela Bakradze – as a representative of HIV/AIDS UN joint group stated that the request from the CCM for the funding to support work of the panel of local experts who will update the NSP. The issue will be discussed in close collaboration with CCM Vice-Chair.

David Sergeenko – raised the issue of selection of the Executive Secretary/Technical Advisor.

It was agreed with the members that the qualification requirements will be shared one more time with the CCM members with the request to widely distribute among their networks encouraging capable candidates to apply. The composition of the selection committee to be further agreed with the members by means of e-mail communication.

Archil Talakvadze - shared with the audience the Initial lessons learned from concept notes reviewed in window 1 that had been shared with the CCM by the FPM and Mrs. Roelofs, GFATM Board member from EECA Constituency. All five recommendations were discussed in details by the rapporteur. The document attached.

David Sergeenko – summarized the discussions of the meeting.

David Ananiashvili – addressed the SRs with the request one more time study the list of the GPIC non-cash assets with the purpose to identify some to be transferred to them

David Sergeenko – responded that the issue will be discussed in a working format

Mamuka Japaridze – announced that he is leaving the CCM due to the fact of planned step down from the position of the Director of TB Center and thanked the audience for cooperation.

Mariam Jashi – asked the CCM members, especially NGO sector involve in the process of advocating for liberalization of drug policy to come up with the consolidated announcement once the order of the Minister mentioned at the beginning of the meeting is signed.

Natia Khonelidze – announced that the GFATM mission will be visiting the country on September 8 – September 12.

Decisions:

- 1. To admit to CCM membership Ms Lela Bakradze – Chair, UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, UNFPA Assistant Representative in Georgia;**
- 2. To elect Ms. Tamar Gabunia – URC LLC, Georgia Tuberculosis Prevention Project, Chief of Party as CCM Vice-Chair;**

3. **The working group to develop a document reflecting the issues of the funding during this transitional period.**
4. **To distribute among the CCM members the ToR for Executive Secretary/Technical Advisor for distribution among their networks. To establish a Selection Committee.**

David Sergeenko

Chairperson

Natia Khonelidze

Administrative Assistant