



Minutes of the 42nd CCM meeting

June 5, 2009

15:00

Venue: Nunisi, Kharagauli district

CCM Members:

Sandra E. Roelofs - Chairperson of the CCM;
Alexander Kvitashvili - Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia;
George Tsereteli - Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia;
Irakli Giorgobiani - First Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia;
Koba Khabazi - Member of the Parliament of Georgia;
Vakhtang Akhaladze - Head of Patriarchate Public Health Department;
Badri Balavadze - Adviser of the Medical Department Ministry of Penitentiary, Probation and Legal Assistance;
Tengiz Tsertsvadze - Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Center, Board Chairman;
Khatuna Todadze - Research Institute on Addiction, Deputy General Director;
Archil Salakaia - Director of the National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases;
Paata Imnadze - National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, General Director;
Lia Tavadze - Social Mobilization Advisor, UNAIDS, on behalf of Ms. Manoela Grozdanova
UNAIDS Country Coordinator for Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia
Akaki Lochoshvili - Global Fund Projects Manager;
Nikoloz Nasidze - MSCI, Program Director;
Elguja Meladze - Employers' Association of Georgia, President;
David Ananiashvili - "Georgian Plus Group", Director;

CCM Secretariat:

Eka Iashvili - HIV/AIDS Technical Consultant;
Levan Sharashidze - TB Technical Consultant;
Natia Khonelidze - Administrative Assistant;

Guests/Observers:

Zurab Danelia - "Tanadgoma", Executive Director

Agenda:

15:00 – 15:10	Opening speech /remarks Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs , Chairperson of the CCM
15:10 – 15:20	Welcome speech /remarks Mr. Irakli Giorgobiani , First Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia

- 15:20 – 15:25** **Information on the Regional TB Infection Control Training and Workshop held in Tbilisi on 18-22 May 2009**
- Ms. Natia Khonelidze** – Administrative Assistant, CCM
- 15:25 – 15:40** **Brief overview of the site visits and meetings held in Geneva on May 16- 20**
Information on the regular voluntary donorship of Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs and the CCM members
- Ms. Eka Iashvili** - HIV/AIDS Technical Consultant, CCM
- 15:40 - 15:50** **The information on the infrastructure of the building of AIDS Center**
Mr. Tengiz Tsertsvadze, Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center, Chairman of the Board
- 15:50 – 16:05** **Information on drugs legislation**
George Tsereteli - Deputy Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia
- 16:05 - 16:20** **Projects Implementation Status**
Mr. Akaki Lochoshvili - Global Fund Projects Manager
- 16:20 - 16:35** **Questions/Answers and Discussion**

Sandra E. Roelofs – greeted the participants of the meeting. She stated that on the way to Nunisi the Hospital for people with mental and physical disabilities was visited. The mobile medical group of Gudushauri clinic conducted free of charge consultations and the small presents were handed to the patients. The Chairperson emphasized high importance of such facilities.

Afterwards Mrs. Roelofs briefly introduced an agenda and outlined past activities and future plans. She stated that the Georgian delegation attended the 62nd session of the World Health Assembly which took place in Geneva on 18-22 May 2009. A number of public health issues were discussed at the session with special focus on pandemic influenza preparedness.

Mrs. Roelofs noted that series of meeting with the representatives of TGF and WHO were held in Geneva. She emphasized the meeting with Dr. Benedetto Saraceno, Director of the WHO

Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse and the idea given by Dr. Saraceno to get involved in health promotion generally. This proposal is especially valuable taking into account expiration of the terms of service as a Stop TB Ambassador and the main directions of the work she is involved.

Mrs. Roelofs mentioned regional TB infection control training and workshop held in Tbilisi and its importance for the region. She noted that the representatives from Emory University visited Georgia and conducted seminar on emergency medicine.

She underlined the fact that Georgia submitted the proposals to TGF Round 9 and expressed her hope that they would be approved.

The Chairperson mentioned that she herself and the CCM members voluntary donated blood to promote voluntary blood donation in the country and stressed that this action would be done on a regular basis.

Afterwards she congratulated Dr. Tsertsvadze with Dr. Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public health awarded to the Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center.

The chairperson stated that the representatives from GDF/GLC and TGF would be visiting Georgia.

She indicated that she received an invitation from Prof. Kazatchkine to participate in a TGF side event in New York City during UN General Assembly and that she would deliver a speech at the UNICEF Executive Board Second Sessions as well.

Mrs. Roelofs noted that at the same period the visit to Atlanta to meet with the First Lady of Georgia (USA) and to visit Emory University, learning and nursing centers was planned.

Afterwards, the Chairperson gave the floor to **Mr. Irakli Giorgobiani**.

Irakli Giorgobiani – greeted the participants and expressed his gratitude to the Employers' Association for providing venue for the CCM meeting.

Afterwards Mr. Giorgobiani indicated the utmost importance of the issues the CCM dealt with and underlined the great role of Mrs. Roelofs as the CCM Chairperson.

He emphasized the significance of the working group on blood safety and noted that it had started its functioning and series of meeting had been already held.

Afterwards Mr. Giorgobiani brought to the attention of the audience the issue of the GEL 5 health insurance and stated that the number of individuals who had applied was much less than anticipated. Thus the population eligible for applying (between the ages of 3 and 60) are staying vulnerable. He stated that the problem was acute and required immediate reaction and addressed the participants with the request to get involved in the promotion of the newly introduced health insurance as it was very important for the population of Georgia.

The above-mentioned issue caused discussion of the audience and the ideas of better promotion and more clear and broad advertising of the initiative were expressed. **Mr. George Tsereteli** gave a notion of introducing mechanisms to facilitate payment which could be essential in case of family insurance.

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs gave the floor to **Ms. Natia Khonelidze**

Natia Khonelidze – presented information on the first Regional training and workshop TB Infection Control (IC) held in Tbilisi.

She emphasized that importance of appropriate TB Infection Control had become increasingly acknowledged by national and international partners particularly the TB Control Assistance Program (TB CAP).

She noted that the workshop was organized by KNCV and co-organized by MSCI, CDC, NTP Georgia and financially supported by USAID.

The rapporteur specified the participant countries, the objectives and expected outcomes of the training.

She indicated that methodologically the training comprised of the two parts.

Part one included the training of the participants on TB-IC with site visits to the National Center of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases and part two included development of the draft national TB-IC strategic plans.

The rapporteur stressed that Mrs. Sandra Elisabeth Roelofs addressed attendees of the workshop with a conclusion speech and that once again underlined the high political commitment to TB control in the country.

Nikoloz Nasidze – he stressed that the most valuable outcome of the meeting was development of the draft national TB-IC strategic plans by each participant countries.

Sandra E. Roelofs – noted that she considered very important participation of the representatives of the companies that would be responsible for the construction of new healthcare facilities at the workshop. She indicated that the recommendations in Georgian language should be developed and handed to those companies which would be constructing the facilities on the tender basis.

Archil Salakaia – stated that environmental (engineering) control was a very important facet of Infection Control and unfortunately in this particular field lack of knowledge and expertise was observed in the country. He mentioned that International Conference on engineering control would be held in Harvard in August next year and participation of the Georgian delegation would greatly contribute in enhancement of this sphere.

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs gave the floor to **Ms. Eka Iashvili**

Eka Iashvili –briefed the members on the working visit to Switzerland, Geneva on May 16-20, 2009.

Mrs. Iashvili stated that during her stay in Geneva, she and Akaki Lochoshvili had chance of visiting a few sites working with drug addicts, MARPs and HIV patients , namely NGOs – Premier Ligne and Foundation Phenix as well as Group Sida Geneva and HIV Treatment and Counseling Center. The speaker introduced to the members the goals and objectives of sites functioning and the services they delivered. In addition Mrs. Iashvili shared with audience visual aids used and distributed among MARPs in NGOs, such as condoms, needles, syringes, stericups, etc.

She emphasized the meeting with TGF's CCM team and noted that TGF had elaborated 4 pages excel file for better monitoring of the grants by the CCM and that the file had been already piloted in seven countries and it might be used in Georgia as well.

Mrs. Iashvili briefed members on the meeting of Mrs. Roelofs with Prof. Kazatchkine, Mr. Weber, Mr. Creach. She stated that during the meeting Prof. Kazatchkine underlined a key role of Mrs. Roelofs in achievements that Georgia reached in regard to universal access to ARV treatment, especially in high risk groups, as well as universal access to MDR-TB treatment. Prof. Kazatchkine had offered to assist Mrs. Roelofs in her advocacy efforts for global health and the Global Fund. In addition Executive Director stated that if Georgia promotes the treatment of 40% of IDUs with OST countrywide it would reach universal access in HR as well. He suggested Mrs. Roelofs to conduct the regional conference in Georgia with purpose to share its own experience at the regional level and invited her to participate at the Global Fund's site visit in NYC that would take place during the UN General Assembly on September 23, 2009. At the end Mrs. Iashvili informed members on the outcomes of Mrs. Roelofs meeting with Prof. Saraceno (head of Mental Health and Substance Abuse department in WHO) and emphasized that his department would technically assist Georgia with elaboration of Mental Healthcare guidelines and standards for PLHIV.

Finally, she thanked Mrs. Roelofs for making possible to join her trip to Geneva and UNAIDS for financial support they had provided during her whole stay aboard.

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs gave the floor to **Mr. George Tsereteli**

George Tsereteli – stated that the package of drug legislation was ready for Parliamentary hearing. He noted that the package consisted of several bills which envisaged fundamental changes in drug legislation.

He underlined the importance of the work meeting supported by TGF addressing a draft law which was held on March 14th, 2009 in Bazaleti. The meeting was especially important in terms of decriminalization of drug abuse envisaged by the drug legislation package that constituted concern for law enforcement bodies.

Mr. Tsereteli stated that he had series of the meetings with the representatives of the relevant ministries and this issue was a subject of a thorough discussion.

He indicated that the changes in the list of the substances under the special control were a serious innovation. The minimal, middle and big amounts of substances were revised as well. The rapporteur also stated that new legislation encompassed increased motivation for treatment.

According to Mr. Tsereteli the new legislation provides more detail description of the competencies, responsibilities of the state and the citizens. A lot of comments were received from various political groups, experts and international organizations. He addressed the CCM with request to support speed-up of the process of the adoption of the new legislation by means of issuing a letter to the Chairman of the Parliament. In conclusion he stated that the new legislation was longly planned and highly anticipated by the Georgian society.

Khatuna Todadze - noted that absence of progressive legislation was a serious bottleneck in terms of funding from various donors and that it was a concern not only for the patients but for various international organizations working on Harm Reduction issues.

George Tsereteli – highly appreciated introduction of Methadone Substitution Treatment Pilot Program for opioid addicts in prison #8 of Penitentiary Department.

Sandra E. Roelofs – stated that the issue of the reintegration of the drug users into the society was very important and it should be given special attention. She also mentioned that the wording “anti-drug” was not appropriate.

The Chairperson stated that during the meeting with Prof. Kazatchkine he suggested to conduct the regional conference in Georgia on Harm reduction.

George Tsereteli – seconded the notion and stated that such conference might be organized jointly by the CCM and the Parliament of Georgia.

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs gave the floor to **Mr. Tengiz Tsertsvadze**

Tengiz Tsertsvadze – expressed his deep appreciation for awarding the Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center with Dr. Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize.

He overviewed the current situation regarding the building of AIDS Center.

He informed attendees that Mr. Alexander Kvitashvili, Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs and Mr. Irakli Giorgobiani First Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs visited AIDS Center and made a decision regarding the rehabilitation works of full building of the out-patient clinic's premises at the Hospital of infectious diseases (versus initially planned rehabilitation of the second floor of the building). The rehabilitation will be done with TGF HIV Round 2 and Round 6 Grants funds. Above mentioned rehabilitation will be done this year.

The reporter also stated that he received a promise for the permission for rehabilitation of the in patient clinic's building using TGF funds from HIV Round 6 Grant (Year 3 budget). He also informed the attendees that the minister assured to support with additional funds to co-finance rehabilitation.

Mr. Tsertsvadze highly praised this support and thanked the Minister and stated that the resolution regarding the rehabilitation of out patient clinic was very crucial and important, however the issue of location of the in patient clinic was still open and it depended on the final decision of the government for the future of the National Center for Infectious Diseases.

Finally, he thanked Mrs. Roelofs for her great contribution to finding a way to solve this problem.

Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs gave the floor to **Mr. Akaki Lochoshvili**

Akaki Lochoshvili – shared with the participants information regarding upcoming workshop organized by TGF and dedicated to the new architecture of the Global Fund grants.

Afterwards he stated that deadline for submission of RCC Wave 7 TB proposal was July 31 and final version of the proposal would be presented at the next CCM meeting.

He briefly specified the components of the proposal and stated that vast majority of them represented the continuation of the Round 4 TB grants and support its objectives. Then he noted that implementation of the RCC Wave 6 was anticipated by January after Board approval. Finally he briefly reviewed the implementation status of ongoing projects.

Zurab Danelia – raised an issue about implementation of the project component in the region of Abkhazia and expressed his hope that the process of implementation would continue without any obstacles.

Tengiz Tsertsvadze – noted that residents of Abkhazia were registered in the AIDS center and some of them had received in-patient treatment.

Sandra E. Roelofs – raised a question regarding TB situation in Abkhazia.

Archil Salakaia – stated that MSF shifted management of sensitive TB to local *de facto* authorities and they were dealing with sensitive TB control and the MSF was involved only in MDR TB control. According to the available data sensitive TB control was not well managed. He also stated that probably starting from the next week MSF would be receiving second line anti-TB drugs for Abkhazia through TGF.

Sandra E. Roelofs - thanked the participants of the meeting for having attended and announced the meeting closed.



Alexander Kvitashvili

Vice Chair of the CCM



Natia Khonelidze

Administrative Assistant to the CCM