



## Minutes of the 53rd CCM meeting

June 28, 2011

12:00

Venue: Region of Imereti, Sataplia Reserve

### CCM Members:

**Sandra E. Roelofs** - Chairperson of the CCM;  
**Andrew Urushadze** - Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia (MoLHSA);  
**Irakli Giorgobiani** - First Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia;  
**Marina Salukvadze** - Head of Division of Abkhazia Autonomous Republic and Former South Ossetia Autonomous District, Office of the State Minister for Reintegration, on behalf of  
**Irakli Pochkhidze** - First Deputy State Minister for Reintegration;  
**Philip Dimitrov** - Ambassador, Head of European Union Delegation to Georgia;  
**Irine Kurdadze** - Deputy Minister of Science and Education;  
**Zurab Vadachkoria** - Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University;  
**David Asatiani** - Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance (MCLA), Head of Healthcare Department;  
**Tengiz Tsertsvadze** - Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Center, General Director;  
**Khatuna Todadze** - Research Institute on Addiction, Deputy General Director;  
**Igor Kalandadze** - Director of the National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases;  
**Akaki Lochoshvili** - GPIC, Executive Director;  
**Lia Tavadze** - UNAIDS adviser;  
**Tamar Sirbiladze** - USAID, Senior Health Advisor;  
**Mzia Tabatadze** - USAID Contractor, HIV Policy and Advocacy Expert;  
Georgia HIV Prevention Project (GHPP), on behalf of **Mamuka Djibuti** - RTI International, GHPP, Project Director;  
**Zurab Danelia** - Georgian Harm Reduction Network, Deputy Chairman of the Board, on behalf of **David Otiashvili** - Chairman of the Board;  
**Maia Kavtaradze** - GOPA/KfW, Project Coordinator;  
**Amiran Gamkrelidze**, WHO Country Programme Coordinator for STIs/HIV/AIDS, on behalf of **Rusudan Klimiashvili** - WHO Country Coordinator;  
**David Ananiashvili** - "Georgian Plus Group", Director;  
**Elguja Meladze** - Employers' Association of Georgia, President;

### Guests/Observers:

**Prof. Dr. Jacques Scheres** - University Hospital Maastricht azM;  
**Prof. Leopold M.G. Curfs** - Director, Governor Kremers Center, Maastricht University;  
**Mr. Mikheil Dolidze** - Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia;  
**Ms. Nata Avaliani** - National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Director;  
**Ms. Manoela Grozdanova** - UNAIDS, Country Coordinator for Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia;

CCM Secretariat:

Eka Iashvili - HIV/AIDS Technical Consultant:

Levan Sharashidze - TB Technical Consultant:

Natia Khonelidze - Administrative Assistant

Agenda

12:00 – 12:10	<b>Opening speech /remarks</b> Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs, Chairperson of the CCM
12:10 – 12:20	<b>Welcome speech /remarks</b> Mr. Andrew Urushadze, Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
12:20 – 12:30	<b>Project Implementation Status</b> Mr. Akaki Lochoshvili – GPIC, Executive Director
12:30 – 12:35	<b>Creation of National TB Team and assigning its mandate to TB Partners Coordination Group/introduction of the request</b> Mr. Iagor Kalandadze – Director of the National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases
12:35 – 12:45	<b>Present Status of Implementation of Action Plan for Engagement</b> Ms. Marina Salukvadze – Head of Division of Abkhazia Autonomous Republic and Former South Ossetia Autonomous District, Office of the State Minister for Reintegration
12:45 – 12:50	<b>Endorsement of Georgia National HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation System documents</b>
12:50 - 13:00	<b>Moscow Declaration adopted at the First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Life Healthy Life styles and Noncommunicable Disease Control; status of upcoming UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases Prevention and Control, 19-20 September, New York</b> Mr. Amiran Gamkrelidze – WHO Country Programme Coordinator for STIs/HIV/AIDS
13:00– 13:10	<b>Mapping the Future: Options for Drug Policy Reform in Georgia</b> Ms. Mzia Tabatadze - USAID Contractor, HIV Policy and Advocacy Expert: Georgia HI Georgia HIV Pre Georgia HIV Prevention Project
13:10 – 13:20	<b>Questions/Answers and Discussion</b>

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**Sandra E. Roelofs** – greeted the participants and thanked them for coming. The Chairperson highlighted the importance of the meeting with Prof. Dr. Jacques Scheres and Prof. Leopold Curfs held on June 27 and welcomed their attendance at the CCM. Mrs. Roelofs welcomed Ms. Manoela Grozdanova and announced that a separate meeting with her will be held after completion of the CCM session. The Chairperson welcomed Mr. Philip Dimitrov, Ambassador, Head of European Union Delegation to Georgia.

Mrs. Roelofs announced that the Supervisory Board for Prison Healthcare reforms has been established and will be chaired by herself and co-chaired by Ms. Khatuna Kalmakhelidze, Minister of Corrections and Legal Assistance and Mr. Andrew Urushadze, Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs. The Board is a temporary supervisory body between MoLHSA and MCLA. The office of the Ombudsman will be also involved in its work. The Chairperson underlined the importance of this newly established institution which will greatly contribute to strengthening of healthcare system in penitentiary establishments. Mrs. Roelofs referred to the 52<sup>nd</sup> CCM meeting where a broad discussion of the acute problems existing in penitentiary system especially in terms of TB control had been held. The first meeting of the Supervisory Board will be convened on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Afterwards the Chairperson briefly overviewed the agenda and gave the floor to Mr. Andrew Urushadze.

**Andrew Urushadze** – the minister greeted the participants of the meeting. He announced that earlier today, within the framework of the psychiatric reform ongoing in the country, a new psychiatric center had been opened in Kutaisi. He noted that all new facilities for the psychiatric patients meet modern standards and can provide services appropriate for the patients' dignity. Finally, he underlined the importance of the items of the agenda and thanked the attendees for coming.

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

**Akaki Lochoshvili** – informed attendees that the process of reorganization associated with change of the status of PR had been successfully finalized; Grant Agreements with the Global Fund were signed in May and on 3 June PR received all grants' funds and became fully operational.

TB Round 10 grant negotiations are in the final stage and the grant agreement for single stream funding (SSF) will be signed shortly. HIV/AIDS Round 10 grant negotiations are still ongoing.

Mr. Lochoshvili raised an issue regarding selection of the Sub Recipients for TGF grants. He proposed to CCM members to make a decision to establish a new system of nomination of SRs during proposal submission to TGF, which means following:

- CCM announces a call for proposal development to be submitted to the TGF call for proposals;
- submitted components/objectives of the proposals will be reviewed by the CCM and the best one will be selected for submission to TGF;
- author of the components/objectives of the proposal will be nominated as SR for the relevant components/objectives in TGF proposal

With this mechanism, quality of proposal development and grant negotiation process will be enhanced. This mechanism will encourage new organizations to participate in proposal development. Akaki Lochoshvili proposed to apply this system for selection of SRs for HIV/AIDS and TB Round 10 grants. All current SRs for ongoing TB and HIV grants are authors of relevant component/objectives and they will remain active. He proposed two new SRs, authors of the following component/objectives, which did not exist in previous grants:

(i) "Generate evidence base on progress in behavior modification among MARPs and effectiveness of preventive interventions, to inform policies and practice (prepared by Curatio Foundation)"

(ii) "Minimize the impact of stigma and discrimination on the access to HIV interventions for IDUs in healthcare settings (prepared by HIV/AIDS Support Foundation)" of the R10 HIV/AIDS grant and requested the audience to make a decision.

Afterwards, the reporter raised an issue regarding launching of Methadone Substitution therapy programs in the region of Abkhazia. He stated that, during his recent visit to Sukhumi, he received the request to initiate a pilot program from Abkhazian de facto authorities, based on the crucial need for implementation of the program in the region. He requested the CCM to facilitate the negotiations with Georgian authorities in order to open one pilot regional center.

**Andrew Urushadze** - underlined the importance of the UNDP mechanism for solving this issue and stated that with involvement of the State Office for Reintegration the work toward filling existing gaps in terms of providing the patients with methadone substitution therapy in the region of Abkhazia will be undertaken.

**Akaki Lochoshvili** provided the audience with the latest update on the process of granting TGF with Privileges and Immunities, Georgian Embassy to Switzerland as well as other relevant authorities had been actively involved and successful completion of the process is anticipated in the nearest future.

**Sandra E. Roelofs** - underlined the importance of discussed issue and expressed her hope that signed agreement will be handed to Prof. Kazatchkine during the meeting in New York scheduled to be held within the framework of UN General Assembly High-level meeting on NCDs Prevention and Control. Afterwards the Chairperson highly emphasized that Mrs Martelly, First Lady of the Republic of Haiti is considering accepting the position of the Chair of CCM. A meeting is planned with Mrs Martelly.

**Akaki Lochoshvili** – The rapporteur raised an issue regarding ineligibility of the country to submit an application for HIV and TB components in R11 unless the country applies for exemptions to this rule. The deadline for submission of the proposal concepts is July 22.

At the discussion on participation in R 11 the notion to apply for the exemptions to the recent funding eligibility rule and to submit the proposal concepts to TGF has been expressed and agreed by the attendees. Components and main directions of the proposals have been discussed and a general agreement has been reached.

Afterwards he announced that TGF is planning to pilot a draft Performance Framework in eight CCMs including Georgia and requested the audience to make a decision on participation of the country in this exercise.

Willingness to participate had been expressed by attendees, but the timeframe should be adjusted due to holiday season.

**Andrew Urushadze** raised a question regarding current status of the building designated for the Infectious Diseases and AIDS Center.

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**Akaki Lochoshvili** – explained that independent international experts, recommended by Fund's Portfolio Manager are coming to Georgia in order to assess the condition of the building that will be renovated. This assessment is one of the special conditions of HIV/AIDS SSF grant. Starting date of renovation activities depends on the report provided by the consultants.

**Tengiz Tsertsvadze** - proposed to align 2011-2016 HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan with WHO European Action Plan on HIV/AIDS for 2012-2015 and set 90% target for the indicator - percentage of key populations who received HIV test and know the result versus 35% fixed in the Plan.

While speaking on participation in R 11 he reaffirmed readiness to apply for the exemption to the recent funding eligibility rule in order for the country proposal to be considered. The attendees agreed with presented interventions of the proposal concept. Afterwards he expressed his opinion regarding a new system of SR's selection and informed attendees that open bidding procedure for R10 new components is more acceptable for him.

**Eka Iashvili** – raised a question on the tender for revealing service providers for the State Program "HIV/AIDS Early Detection and Treatment"

**Nata Avaliani** – stated that service providers for the vast majority of the components of the State programs will be revealed based on the tender results. The exceptions were made with regard to few components.

**Khatuna Todadze** – underlined the importance of launching pilot Methadone Substitution program in Abkhazia. While speaking on Human Resources she stated that despite the fact that staff of Sukhumi Narcological Center is well trained there is need to re-train the staff in terms of commencement of a new program.

She stated that geographic expansion of the Methadon Program to Abkhazia should be well addressed taking into consideration readiness of Abkhazian side and great need for the program in the region.

**Zurab Danelia** – stated that two projects are successfully implemented in Abkhazia and the staff is highly qualified and well trained. Although in terms of commencement of Methadone Substitution Program the staff should receive additional training and proposed Sukhumi as a venue. He also stated that primary beneficiaries of the Methadone Program should be ARV patients enrolled in the project. Assessment conducted in 2008 and 2009 showed great need for launching substitution therapy program in the region. He underlined importance of the CCM's support for launching discussed activities in Abkhazia.

**Andrew Urushadze** – stated that the issue will be additionally discussed in the MoLHSA in order to set the most effective mechanism of its realization.

**Akaki Lochoshvili** – referred to Mr. Tsertsvadze's remarks and stated that as Round 10 components constitute continuation of Round 6 the SRs are already selected. There is a need to make a decision on selection of the SRs for the two new components included in R10 project.

**Sandra E. Roelofs** – raised a question on the number of the beneficiaries of the pilot program in Abkhazia.

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**Akaki Lochoshvili** – responded that the number of the beneficiaries (100) is set according to the capacity of one center to provide qualified services as well existing financial resources and stated the need is greater and Abkhazian side had initially proposed 200 patients.

**Sandra E. Roelofs** – expressed her willingness to finance treatment of two individuals in Abkhazia in analogue with financing of two patients in Tbilisi.

**Tengiz Tsertsvadze** – get back to the issue of the State Healthcare Program and noted that coverage of IDUs should be increased and coverage of the patients with HIV clinical signs decreased according to the real need.

**Andrew Urushadze** – noted that IDUs represent hidden population which creates significant obstacles to their identification

**Sandra E. Roelofs** – gave the floor to Mr. **Igor Kalandadze**

**Igor Kalandadze** – raised an issue of creating National TB Team according to the recommendation of the WHO Regional Office for Europe and assigning its mandate to the TB Partners Coordinating Group. He presented role, functions and scope of work of TB Team. The issue has been agreed as no objections have been made from present CCM members and guests/observers.

Afterwards he announced that visit of WHO TB monitoring mission to Abkhazia is planned for following week. He briefly presented the main components of the proposal concept and reaffirmed readiness and a strong need to submit a proposal to TGF under exemption to the recent funding eligibility rule. The attendees agreed with the proposed components and main directions.

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

**Andrew Urushadze** – briefed attendees that recent changes in the State Referral Program allowed financing of healthcare needs for the bearers of Abkhazian passports.

**Marina Salukvadze** – stated that State Strategy on Occupied territories (endorsed in January 2010) had been elaborated by the Government of Georgia in close cooperation with relevant authorities and a broad range of local and international experts. Action Plan for Engagement giving a detailed plan for implementation of planned activities had been endorsed in July 2010. The rapporteur underlined that presented document is mainly focused on humanitarian factors and thus has an apolitical character and demonstrates human-centered approach. It envisages engagement of the population of occupied territories in the following fields: health care, education, cultural heritage, economic relations, people-to-people interaction. Ms. Salukvadze noted that within the framework of the strategy Georgian Government continues provision of free of charge health care services to the population of the occupied territories on site. The Action Plan follows from the pursuit of four dimensions for engagement – humanitarian, human, social and economic. Seven new instruments enable implementation of the Action Plan. The rapporteur focused on the two new instruments: 1) Status-Neutral Liaison Mechanism (LM); 2) Neutral Identification Card (NID) and Travel Document. Status-Neutral Mechanism operates under the umbrella of UNDP and is based on the principle of the previous arrangement – Georgian/Abkhazian Joint Bilateral Commission. Two offices, one in Tbilisi and another in Sukhumi have been established within the framework of the LM. Provision of the necessary medicines to the occupied territory of Abkhazia is being implemented through the LM. NID will allow residents of occupied territories improved

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access to health care, educational programs, and social benefits available to Georgian citizens. The holders can claim to conduct business activities, seek employment in the private and public sector. The rapporteur underlined that "neutral" means neutral with respect to citizenship status and the document is intent solely for practical purposes. The card also enables the holder to acquire a neutral travel document allowing to travel abroad. The rapporteur stated that the Parliament of Georgia is considering a package for legislative amendments necessary for issuing neutral documents and its adoption is anticipated within coming days\*.

**Eka Iashvili** – gave the floor to **Ms. Tavadze** for brief announcement on the HIV/AIDS M&E system that had been discussed at the previous 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**Lia Tavadze** – highly emphasized importance of M&E system for the country. She noted that with establishment of the system all HIV/AIDS control mechanisms are in place that enables country to implement more effective interventions.

**Eka Iashvili** – put the issue of endorsement of M&E documents to vote.

The documents were endorsed by the members unanimously

**Sandra E. Roelofs** – gave the floor to **Mr. Gamkrelidze**

**Amiran Gamkrelidze** – introduced to the audience presentation entitled "Noncommunicable (chronic) diseases as priority for the year of 2011". He underlined the importance of NCDs, especially of chronic diseases and specified the reasons that make them a priority in 2011. Mr. Gamkrelidze noted that due to high importance of the issue UN High-level meeting will be dedicated to prevention and control of NCDs, namely four main chronic diseases: cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases which are largely caused by four shared behavioral risk factors. The rapporteur stated that in 2008 36 million or 63 percent of global deaths were due to NCDs, principally by mentioned above the four chronic diseases while AIDS, TB and Malaria cause 6 million deaths annually. Afterwards he presented WHO Global Status Report on NCDs which gives detailed description of the global burden of NCDs, risk factors and determinants. The rapporteur overviewed NCDs burden in the European region and economic burden of the diseases. He underlined that official development assistance is very little versus funds provided for combating infectious diseases. Then Mr. Gamkrelidze presented six objectives of the 2008-2013 WHO Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable diseases: 1) to raise the priority accorded to noncommunicable disease in development work at global and national levels, and to integrate prevention and control of such diseases into policies across all government departments; 2) to establish and strengthen national policies and plans for the prevention and control of NCDs; 3) to promote interventions to reduce the main shared modifiable risk factors for noncommunicable diseases: tobacco use, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol; 4) to promote research for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases; 5) to promote partnership for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases; 6) to monitor noncommunicable diseases and their determinants and evaluate progress at the national, regional and global levels. While speaking of the global response to address NCDs he underlined the importance of the Global Strategy and WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC). Mr. Gamkrelidze highlighted the

\*On July 1st the Parliament of Georgia adopted legislative amendments necessary for issuing NID

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importance of the First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Noncommunicable Disease Control held on 28-29 April, 2011 which can be considered the preparatory meeting for upcoming UN High-level meeting on NCDs and briefly overviewed main components of the Moscow Declaration. He highlighted the three principles of the document depicting actions to be undertaken at Governmental, Ministry of Health and International levels. The first principle of the document or commitment to action at the Whole of Government level envisages development of multi-sectoral public policies and creation of equitable health promoting environments; strengthening policy coherence; giving priority to NCD prevention and control according to need, ensuring complementarity with other health objectives; engaging civil society; engaging the private sector; developing and strengthening the ability of health systems to coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate national and sub-national strategies and programmes on NCDs; implementation of population-wide health promotion and disease prevention strategies; implementation of cost-effective policies; acceleration of implementation by State Parties of the provision of the WHO FCTC; implementation of effective policies for NCD prevention and control; promotion of recognition of the rising incidence and burden of NCDs: The actions to be undertaken at the Ministry of Health level are specified as follows: strengthening health information systems; strengthening public health systems at the country level; integrating NCD-related services into primary health care services; promoting access to comprehensive and cost-effective prevention, treatment and care for integrated management of NCDs; ensuring the scale-up of effective, evidence-based and cost-effective interventions; promoting, translating and disseminating research to identify the causes of NCDs, effective approach for NCD prevention and control: The actions to be undertaken at the International level mainly includes appeal to WHO and other relevant UN agencies, development banks and other key international organizations to work in a coordinated manner to address NCDs; commitment to strengthen international support for the full and effective implementation of the international strategies to address NCDs; examining possible means to continue facilitating the access of low- and middle income countries to affordable, safe, effective and high quality medicines. Mr. Gamkrelidze mentioned that next session of WHO Regional Committee for Europe will take place in Baku and one of its highlights will be the discussion on new health policy at pan-European level – Health 2020, which considers NCDs as one of its priorities. The rapporteur referred to UNDESA/WHO Regional High-level consultation on Prevention and Control of NCDs and stated that its final outcome document is available at the UN web-site. Afterwards, Mr. Gamkrelidze raised an issue of the importance and cost-effectiveness of preventive interventions. He focused on the MDGs and noted that none of them make specific mention of the NCDs. Finally, he highly emphasized the significance of upcoming UN General Assembly, considered it as a historical event and boldly noted that the country should have its own Strategy and Action Plan on chronic diseases.

**Sandra E. Roelofs** – noted that she herself will attend the UN High-level Meeting on NCDs and gave the floor to Ms. **Tabatadze**

**Mzia Tabatadze** – introduced the report entitled “Mapping the future: Options for Drug Policy in Georgia” which summarizes findings, conclusions and recommendations from a consultancy review undertaken within the framework of USAID funded Georgia HIV Prevention Project. The rapporteur overviewed the following main components of the report: commentary on proposed new legislation, a review of Georgia Anti-Drug Strategy and suggested roadmap. Ms. Tabatadze presented individual commentaries on each amendment given in the report which in summary are considered progressive and welcome. While speaking of 2007 “Law on Tackling Drug Crime” the rapporteur noted that the report assesses



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deprivation of the individuals from specific civil rights for 3 to 15 years after being convicted for a range of drug offenses to be a reinforcement of social exclusion of drug users. Suggested roadmap includes the following components: harmonization of drug legislation; systematic analysis of country drug-related situation, evidence-based research; review and update of national anti-drug strategy (suggested timescale: 2013-2018); development of Action Plan (2013-2015)

**Sandra E. Roelofs** – addressed the presenter with the questions if the recommendations of Georgian Harm Reduction Network have been considered during elaboration of the legislative package.

**Mzia Tabatadze** – stated that Georgian Harm Reduction network was lobbying for more radical changes and proposed amendments are considered by them to be moderate progressive steps towards liberalization.

**Sandra E. Roelofs** - due to the fact that there was a different opinion from Mr. Tengiz Tsertsvadze's side, the CCM Chairperson requested 48 hours for additional consultations with the Ministry of Health to make a decision on the mechanism of selecting SRs for BSS and stigma components of the HIV/AIDS R10 grant\*\*. Finally, the Chairperson thanked members and observers for their attendance and active participation and announced the meeting as closed.

#### Decisions:

1. To participate in piloting draft CCM Performance Framework launched by TGF;
2. To endorse submission of TB and HIV/AIDS proposal concepts encompassing discussed components and main directions to TGF to request exemptions to the recent funding eligibility rule for further participation in Round 11; a decision was made to elaborate and circulate the electronic version of the proposal concepts among CCM members for farther comments or approval.
3. To establish National TB TEAM and assign its mandate to TB Partners Coordination Group;
4. To endorse National HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation System documents;
5. According to the decision made on June 30 during additional consultations by the CCM Chairperson and Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs Curatio Foundation and HIV/AIDS Support Fund has been designated as the SRs for the following components of HIV/AIDS R10 grant respectively:
  - a. "Generate evidence base on progress in behavior modification among MARPs and effectiveness of preventive interventions, to inform policies and practice";

\*\*on June 30 the decision to designate SRs for these particular components based on the participation of the development had been made by the CCM Chairperson and MoLHSA. The decision had been communicated to all CCM Members.

b. "Minimize the impact of stigma and discrimination on the access to HIV interventions for IDUs in healthcare settings".

Andrew Urushadze

Vice Chair of the CCM

Natia Khonelidze

Administrative Assistant to the CCM