

Minutes of the 58th CCM meeting

March 16, 2012

Venue: Global Projects Implementation Center

CCM Members:

Sandra E. Roelofs - Chairperson of the CCM;

Andrew Urushadze - Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia (MoLHSA);

Irakli Pochkhidze – First Deputy State Minister for Reintegration;

Irina Kurdadze – Deputy Minister of Education and Science;

Nino Kochishvili – Project Manager, on behalf of **Mr. Philip Dimitrov** - Ambassador, Head of European Union Delegation to Georgia;

Koba Khabazi – Member of the Parliament of Georgia;

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;

Akaki Lochoshvili - GPIC, Executive Director;

Lia Tavadze - UNAIDS adviser;

Tamar Sirbiladze – USAID, Senior Health Advisor;

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

Amiran Gamkrelidze - WHO Country Programme Coordinator, on behalf of **Rusudan Klimiashvili** - Head of WHO Country Office;

Klimiashvili - Head of WHO Country Office;

Maia Kavtaradze - GOPA/KfW, Project Coordinator;

Zurab Danelia - "TANADGOMA", the Union of Victims of the Conflict in Abkhazia, Executive Director;

Nino Tsereteli - Center for Information and Counselling on Reproductive Health TANADGOMA, Executive Director;

Iza Bodokia - HIV/AIDS Support Foundation, Director

FatiDzotsenidze - Georgian National Association for Palliative Care, Board Member;

Guests/Observers:

IrakliGiorgobiani – First DeputyMinister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia;

MikheilDolidze - DeputyMinister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia;

Nana Kiria – Acting Executive Director of the NCTLD;

Nino Nadashvili – member of the working group;

ArchilTalakvadze - member of the working group;

Lela Serebryakova - Head of Public Health and Programmes Division, MoLHSA

CCM Secretariat:

Eka Iashvili - HIV/AIDS Technical Consultant;

Natia Khonelidze – Administrative Assistant

Agenda

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| 13:30 – 13:40 | Opening speech /remarks Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs , Chairperson of the CCM |
| 13:40 – 13:50 | Welcome speech /remarks Mr. Andrew Urushadze , Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs |
| 13:50– 14:00 | Endorsement of the CCM ToR |
| 14:00 – 14:10 | Video-conference with Prof. Michel Kazatchkine |
| 14:10 – 14:20 | Treatment as Prevention – the most effective way to fight HIV/AIDS Prof. TengizTsertsvadze - Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Center, General Director; |

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| 14:20 - 14:30 | 2012 TB State Program Mr. Mikheil Dolidze - Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia; Ms. Lela Serebryakova - Head of Public Health and Programmes Division, MoLHSA |
| 14:30 - 14:45 | Discussion |
| 14:45 - 15:00 | Projects Implementation Status/ GEO-H-GPIC grant renewal/country's response to the draft report on the Diagnostic review of the Global Fund grants to Georgia Mr. Akaki Lochoshvili - GPIC, Executive Director |
| 15:00 - 15:30 | Reception |

Sandra E. Roelofs – greeted the participants and thanked them for coming. The Chairperson thanked Global Projects Implementation Center for providing venue for conducting the CCM meeting. Mrs. Roelofs stated that the agenda of the meeting envisaged a video-conference with participation of Prof. Kazatchkine in his last working day in the capacity of the Executive Director of the Global Fund. Mrs. Roelofs once again highly emphasized outstanding role of Prof. Kazatchkine. Afterwards the Chairperson stated that Mr. Andrew Urushadze will continue work in the position of Deputy Mayor of Tbilisi, leading a social and healthcare direction in Tbilisi City Hall. Mr. Zurab Tchiaberashvili will substitute Mr. Urushadze in the position of the Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs. Mrs. Roelofs expressed her hope that cooperation with Mr. Andrew Urushadze will be further productive. Mrs. Roelofs congratulated Mr. Tengiz Tsertsvadze on his birthday. Finally the Chairperson overviewed the agenda and gave the floor to **Mr. Andrew Urushadze**.

Andrew Urushadze – thanked the attendees for fruitful cooperation and support he experienced during his tenure as the Minister of Health. He expressed his hope that Mr. Tchiaberashvili will greatly contribute to further strengthening of healthcare sector and social development. He highlighted the role of the CCM as one AIDS/TB coordinating authority in the country. He stated that success and well-functioning of CCM Georgia can be exemplary for other countries. Finally Mr. Urushadze congratulated Mr. Tsertsvadze on his birthday and thanked him for his contribution in the field of fighting HIV/AIDS.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the floor to **Ms. Nino Nadashvili**

Nino Nadashvili – presented to the audience the final draft ToR of the CCM that encompassed the comments and remarks of the members.

The rapporteur presented the following components of the documents that reflected the members' comments: title of the CCM, aim and functions, composition and structure, number of the members and percentage of civil sector, the principle of renewal of the composition, conflict of interest. The

alternative wording of the statement of conflict of interest has been presented and approved by the members.

Ms. Tamar Sirbiladze stated that USAID as well as EU refrain from the voting as the comments from the legal departments of both entities have not been received yet. Ms. Eka Iashvili explained that the ToR has been discussed in details at the previous CCM meeting, it was decided that during the week of February 6 the members will provide the secretariat with their further suggestions and comments. Besides, the document has been shared with the members for final revision prior to the meeting as the agenda envisaged the endorsement of the ToR. Mr. Archil Talakvadze stated that the comments from the USAID expressed at the previous meeting have been taken into consideration and corresponding changes have been made. Mr. Akaki Lochoshvili brought attention of the audience to the OIG recommendation that states that detailed CCM guidance should not be established by governmental decree. Mr. Archil Talakvadze agreed with him and noted that this recommendation has been taken into consideration while elaborating of the document. Mr. Koba Khabazi noted that the Government of Georgia should not be referred as the "third Party" as indicated in the document. The comment has been accepted by the attendees.

Eka Iashvili – put the issue of endorsement of the CCM ToR to vote.

The CCM ToR was endorsed by the vast majority of the presented members.

Conference call to Prof. Kazatchkine, Geneva. The Global Fund

Sandra E. Roelofs – greeted Prof. Kazatchkine and on behalf of CCM Georgia expressed sincere appreciation for his commitment in fighting the three diseases and for the support that the country and the region experienced for the years.

Michel Kazatchkine – greeted the attendees and expressed his deep gratitude to the Chairperson personally and to the CCM Georgia for the support to the GF and congratulated them on the big achievements made. Afterwards, Prof. Kazatchkine focused on the role of Mrs. Roelofs as an Alternate Board Member and on new trends observed in the Global Fund. While specifying his reflections on recent five years he specially underlined the following issues: success of the GF as of the investor, safely investing donors' money, into the countries; unprecedented progress made in fighting the three diseases; bringing the principles into reality. Afterwards he focused on the concerns of the future development of the GF and the tensions observed. He highly emphasized priority of the country ownership; stressed the importance of the Fund being the institution with strong scientific basis versus transforming it into grant manager organization; Prof. Kazatchkine strongly opposed the decision of the Board on further limitation of funding for middle-income countries and underlined the significance for the Global Fund to remain "global" in its nature versus current trend of focusing on a few top priority countries. Finally, Prof. Kazatchkine focused on his own plans and expressed his hope for future productive cooperation.

Sandra E. Roelofs – thanked Prof. Kazatchkine and gave the floor to **Mr. Andrew Urushadze**

Andrew Urushadze – announced that similar to Prof. Kazatchkine it was his last working day in his current position. He thanked Prof. Kazatchkine for his work and stated that he will be always the honored guest to Georgia.

Michel Kazatchkine – thanked Mr. Urushadze for his commitment during his tenure as the Minister and Vice-Chair of the CCM. Afterwards he congratulated Prof. Tsertsvadze on his birthday and highly emphasized his contribution in the field of fighting HIV/AIDS.

Tengiz Tsertsvadze – greeted Prof. Kazatchkine and thanked him for invaluable contribution in fighting the three diseases he has made so far.

Sandra E. Roelofs – thanked Prof. Kazatchkine again and expressed her hope that the cooperation will continue in the future.

Eka Iashvili - stated that the MoU between the CCM and Inter-Agency Coordinating Council to combat drug use has been signed and highly emphasized the significance of the document. Ms. Iashvili noted that the CCM is presented at the newly established Council and stated that the corresponding changes acknowledging the role of the CCM will be made in the decree. Afterwards she brought attention of the audience to the issue of drug legislation and achievements made in the facet of fighting drug use.

Sandra E. Roelofs – positively assessed the MoU and briefly reviewed the positive trends observed in the sphere of liberalization of drug policy. The Chairperson referred to the issue of tobacco use and stated that appropriate consideration should be given to this issue.

Amiran Gamkrelidze – noted that according to the objectives of the Inter-Agency Coordinating Council and based on the international experience the Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs should be presented in the Council with the status of Co-Chair.

Sandra E. Roelofs – welcomed the statement of Mr. Gamkrelidze and gave the floor to **Mr. Tengiz Tsertsvadze**.

Tengiz Tsertsvadze – presented to the audience the new way of fighting HIV/AIDS entitled “Treatment as Prevention”. At the beginning of the presentation he stated that “Treatment as Prevention” has been nominated by the “Time” among top medical breakthroughs of the year of 2011 and as the winner among scientific breakthroughs of 2011 by the “Science”. Afterwards he presented the comparison of “Treatment as Prevention” with “Pre-exposure Prophylaxis”. Mr. Tsertsvadze referred to the presentation of Mr. Anthony Fauci at the Vienna Conference, 2011 and highlighted that the presented strategy has been identified as the most effective preventive mechanism. Afterwards Prof. Tsertsvadze presented to the audience the evidences proving the effectiveness of Early Antiretroviral Therapy in HIV prevention. He presented the guidelines on initiation of ARV treatment and boldly noted that US approach has been the most progressive (CD4<350 – recommended, CD4 350-500 – recommended, CD4>500 - applicable). New York City Department of Health recommends offering ARV treatment to any person living with HIV regardless of the person’s CD4 count. Afterwards, Prof. Tsertsvadze reviewed HIV/AIDS situation in Georgia and expressed his concern with regard of universal coverage of HIV/AIDS treatment.

The strategy including its medical aspects has been discussed by the attendees. In general the presented strategy has been positively assessed by the audience though its implementation at the given period has not been considered to be realistic due to its huge financial implications.

Andrew Urushadze – noted that endorsement of the 2012 State TB Control Program by the Government is planned for the next week.

Mikheil Dolidze - stated that TB related situation analysis is ongoing within the framework of USAID funded TB Prevention Program. Then he focused on the selection process of a new Director of National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases and stressed that the CCM will continue to be informed on all stages of the procedures.

Lela Serebryakova – presented 2012 State TB Control Program. The four components of the program (out-patient treatment; epidemiological surveillance and monitoring; laboratory diagnosis; in-patient treatment) and the planned innovations within each component have been introduced and discussed with the audience. At the end of the presentation the rapporteur announced that introducing of electronic recording system of drugs distribution and of sputum collection is planned.

Such issues as rationalization of expenses, procurement of cheap and high-quality drugs, effective management of Human Resources have been discussed by the audience Mr. Mikheil Dolidze clarified that currently abolishment of vertical system of TB Control is not planned due to high burden of TB in the country. He focused on the list of medical specializations and stressed that in the future after achieving significant decrease in TB prevalence the integration of phthisiatrician services into other medical professions can be considered. In response to the question raised by Mr. Danelia with regard to substitution of MSF in the region of Abkhazia he stated that the separate meeting dedicated to detailed discussion of this issue will be held at the Ministry. Ms. Iza Bodokia raised an issue of some cases of procurement of low quality reagents. Mr. Dolidze stressed that modern mechanisms of procurement give the possibility to procure cheap and high-quality reagents.

Andrew Urushadze – gave the floor to Mr. Akaki Lochoshvili

Akaki Lochoshvili – presented to the audience country's unified response to the draft report on the Diagnostic Review of the Global Fund's Grants to Georgia for final discussion and endorsement. The document has been endorsed by CCM members. Afterwards the rapporteur presented Close Out Plans for Malaria (GEO-611-G09-M) and TB (GEO-611-G10-T) grants with transfer of the assets procured within those grants to the SRs. The Close out Plans have been endorsed by CCM members.

Mr. Lochoshvili focused on the renewal of GEO-H-GPIC grant (the deadline for submission is 30 April 2012). He presented to the members the requirements of the Global Fund and main possible components of the proposal that have been agreed by the attendees. It was decided to circulate the final Grant Renewal Country Application among CCM members via e-mail for final endorsement and submission to the Global Fund.

The reporteur referred to the issue of expanding already existing Methadone Center that gives the possibility to significantly increase the number of beneficiaries with minimal administrative costs. Finally, he announced that Charitable Foundation "Intellectual perspective", a Global Fund sub-recipient for Round 9 "Stop TB in Ukraine" Programme is planning to show the success stories, positive changes that were done as well as the challenges that exist in terms of TB control in the country. For this purpose the group of leading Ukrainian journalists will visit Georgia. They will have meetings with the CCM Chairperson, Government officials, TB stakeholders, doctors and patients.


Eka Iashvili – stated that UNAIDS offered technical assistance with regard to finalization of all documents related to renewal process and asked the opinion of the attendees with this regard. The offer has been approved by all presented members.

Andrew Urushadze – thanked the attendees for having attended and announced the meeting as closed.

Decisions:

1. To endorse CCM ToR;
2. To endorse country's response to the draft report on the Diagnostic Review of the Global Fund's Grants to Georgia;
3. To endorse Close Out Plans for Malaria (GEO-611-G09-M) and TB (GEO-611-G10-T) grants;

Sandra Elisabeth Roelofs



Chairperson of the CCM

Natia Khonelidze



Administrative Assistant to the CCM