

Minutes of the 62nd CCM meeting

January 31, 2013

Venue: National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases

CCM Members:

Sandra E. Roelofs - Chairperson of the CCM;

Maia Jashi, Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs, on behalf of Mr David Sergeenko- Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia (MoLHSA);

George Tsereteli - Parliament of Georgia, Deputy Chairman of the Healthcare and Social Issues Committee;

Koba Khabazi – Former TB Patient;

Rima Beriashvili, Deputy Rector, on behalf of Mr. Zurab Vadachkoria - Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University;

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

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

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

Akaki Lochoshvili –GPIC, Executive Director;

Lia Tavadze - UNAIDS adviser;

Tamar Sirbiladze – USAID, Senior Health Advisor;

Tamar Gabunia – USAID Tuberculosis Prevention Project, Chief of Party

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;

Maia Kavtaradze - GOPA /KFW, Project Coordinator;

Rusudan Klimiashvili - WHO Georgia, Head of Country Office

David Ananiashvili - "Georgian Plus Group", Director;

Izoleta Bodokia - HIV/AIDS Support Foundation, Director;

Fati Dzotsenidze–Georgian National Association for Palliative Care, Board Member;

Archil Talakvadze - Deputy Minister of Corrections and Legal Assistance;

Ketevan Natriashvili - Deputy Minister of Education and Science

Guests/Observers:

Amiran Gamkrelidze – WHO Country Programme Coordinator

Marika Gogvadze – Local Fund Agent, Team leader

CCM Secretariat:

Eka Iashvili - TB Technical Consultant

Natia Khonelidze – Administrative Assistant

Technical Assistant on HIV/AIDS issues – Ms. Maia Tsereteli

Agenda

10:30 - Visit to TB Children's Department

11:00 – 11:10	Opening speech /remarks Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs, Chairperson of the CCM
11:10 – 11:20	Welcome speech /remarks Ms. Mariam Jashi, Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs
11:20 – 11:30	Welcome speech /remarks Mr. Amiran Gamkrelidze - WHO Country Programme Coordinator
11:30 – 11:40	Welcome speech /remarks Mamuka Japaridze - Director of National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases
11:40 – 11:50	Introduction and election of the new CCM members
11:50 – 12:30	Review and discussion of the applications for the position of PR for GFATM GEO- H-GPIC grant/questions to the candidates and discussion/voting
12:30 – 12:40	Projects Implementation Status/ Resubmission of Renewal Request (GEO-H-GPIC) Mr. Akaki Lochoshvili - GPIC, Executive Director
12:40 – 12:50	Endorsement of National Tuberculosis Strategy and Action Plan for 2013-2015 Ms. Tamar Gabunia - Chief of Party, USAID Georgia Tuberculosis Prevention Project, head of working group
12:50 - 13:00	Accessibility to Hepatitis C diagnostic and treatment services in penitentiary establishments Mr. Archil Takavadze – Deputy Minister of Corrections and Legal Assistance
13:00 – 13:10	CCM Oversight Plan/discussion and adoption Ms Eka Iashvili – Technical Consultant

13:10 – 13:20	Overview of a new package of drug legislation Ms. Khatuna Todadze - Head of the Research Institute on Addiction of the Center for Mental Health and Prevention of Addiction
13:20 – 13:40	Discussion

Sandra E. Roelofs – greeted the participants and thanked them for attending. The Chairperson noted that prior to the meeting she herself and some CCM members visited TB Pediatric Department where she donated gifts to the children. Mrs. Roelofs underlined the importance of the meeting, briefly overviewed the agenda and gave the floor to **Ms. Jashi**.

Mariam Jashi – underlined the high performance of the GFATM funded projects in the country. Ms. Jashi stated that MoLHSA is considering the issue of expansion of the mechanisms aimed at coordination of donors' support and noted that afore-mentioned will be discussed with the CCM Chairperson and other relevant parties in the future. She underlined that currently sustainability of the results achieved during the implementation of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria programs represents a matter of high importance.

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

Amiran Gamkrelidze – noted that it was his last working day at the WHO though he will continue being active in healthcare sector. He underlined the importance of the CCM and highly emphasized the role of Mrs. Roelofs. He thanked the members for their productive cooperation and expressed his readiness to continue collaboration.

Sandra E. Roelofs – introduced two candidates for the CCM membership: Ms. Ketevan Natriashvili, Deputy Minister of Education and Science and Mr. Archil Talakvadze, Deputy Minister of Corrections and Legal Assistance and noted that another candidate, Ms. Ketevan Tsikhelashvili, First State Deputy Minister for Reintegration is not present at the meeting due to health problems. The Chairperson gave the floor to **Mr. Japaridze**.

Mamuka Japaridze – greeted the participants and noted that it was a great honor for him to host the CCM meeting.

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

Eka Iashvili – put the issue of electing Ms. Natriashvili and Mr. Talakvadze to vote.

Ms. Natriashvili and Mr. Talakvadze were elected unanimously as members of the CCM.

Afterwards **Ms. Iashvili** raised the issue of **PR election**. The selection process and the election procedures (communicated to the members and to the applicants via e-mail prior to

the meeting) were one more time presented to the attendees and discussed in details. The attendees were asked to present their objections and/or comments on the procedure to be held. No objections followed. The election procedure and the composition of the election commission were agreed with the members. Ms. Iashvili explained the attendees the procedure of filing and collecting the voting forms and underlined that the forms should not be signed, voting takes place anonymously. Close voting procedures will give more freedom to the members in expressing their views and will secure some democracy of the process. The members were asked to declare the presence of a conflict of interest and filled out the conflict of interest forms.

Comment: The CoI forms were signed by all members. The following members did not participate in the voting procedure due to a presence of a conflict of interest declared by them: Akaki Lochoshvili, Maia Kavtaradze, Mamuka Japaridze, David Ananiashvili

Nata Avaliani - stated that it would be much more desirable if the evaluation matrix was available at the time of announcing the call of interest. She indicated to the existence of a slight bias (personal) and based on this fact the appropriateness of PR selection by an independent commission and not by the CCM; Finally, she noted that it would be desirable the GFATM to participate in the evaluation of the presented proposals, though she admitted herself the doubt of her statement.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the floor to the representatives of candidate-organizations (2 min presentations).

Akaki Lochoshvili– underlined a huge experience of the organization in implementation of the GFATM grants. Mr. Lochoshvili highlighted new trends observed in the GFATM and new requirements to the beneficiary-countries. He presented to the audience a brief history of the organization and stated that Georgia Health and Social Projects Implementation Center (GHSPIC) acted as a PR for all GFATM grants during the period of 2002-2010. In January 2011 in light with the GFATM recommendation and based on the decision of the CCM the Global Fund Projects Implementation Team from the GHSPIC founded the NGO “Global Projects Implementation Center”(GPIC) that took over the activities from GHSPIC to ensure continuity of services and continued implementation of the GFATM grants. A comparative analysis of the performance of two units, GHSPIC and GPIC, revealed that GPIC has managed almost similar volume of grants as its predecessor GHSPIC during a period four times shorter. Afterwards *Management Information System (MIS) and Internal Control Arrangements* that are done through Enterprise Resource Planning (EPR) have been introduced. The advantages of the system were presented in detail. *Procurement system* is based on the organization’s own Electronic Procurement System (EPS) established with the purpose to ensure an open and transparent environment. It facilitates participation of national and international organizations in tenders. The system is a good opportunity for GFATM and the LFA to monitor the process remotely. Mr. Lochoshvili presented to the audience the progress made by the organization in terms of addressing the

GFATM's recommendations and stated that performance rate has increased and that almost all Conditional Precedents (CPs) are met.

Maia Butsashvili – stated that MCCU (established in 2000) is actively involved in the field of public healthcare (especially AIDS). She expressed her regret that it is the very first occasion the organization is presented at the CCM though she admitted that they themselves were a little bit closed and concentrated on international projects. Afterwards Ms. Butsashvili presented the activities of the organization. Within the frames of a big-scale project “Prevention of mother-to child HIV transmission” (implementation period: 2002-2005 inclusively) 34,000 pregnant women got AIDS screening, 33 women's consultation centers were involved. While speaking of innovative projects she highlighted an epidemiological study of Papilloma virus in Georgia (the first comprehensive study in the country). An evaluation of knowledge of healthcare workers, of women of reproductive health, laboratory research, PAP-tests were conducted within the frames of the project. The reporter noted that MCCU is the only partner and grant recipient of the French Agency for AIDS Research (ANRS). Recently the second ANRS grant (Hepatitis C) had been received by the organization. Ms. Butsashvili highlighted that the organization has won grants for implementing projects through competitive international tenders. Afterwards she highly emphasized the intellectual capacities of the employees and specified the academic degrees of the staff. Ms. Butsashvili noted that MCCU has a close collaboration with the School of Public Health existing at the basis of Tbilisi State Medical University, which issues joint degrees with internationally recognized institutions. MCCU serves as a base for aforementioned school, the students have an internship at the organization, and the most successful ones were employed by MCCU. Ms. Butsashvili underlined that the high intellectual capacity of MCCU employees will have a paramount importance for sustainability of the projects and fundraising from other donors in case of the GFATM's withdrawal from the country. Ms. Butsashvili noted that weakness of the organization in comparison with its competitor is its less experience in financial turnover. Hereby she mentioned that management of small projects also requires solid financial capabilities. She specified the donor/partner organizations that were implementing audits of the grants and underlined that they never issued claims to MCCU in terms of financial operations and procurement. The afore-mentioned weakness will be filled by a high financial expertise of the MCCU team and their long personal experience in this field. She noted that MCCU is an obvious leader in terms of scientific publications placed in solid editions.

Sandra E. Roelofs – open the floor for questions/answers and discussion.

George Tsereteli– addressed Ms. Butsashvili with the question regarding their Supervisory Board.

Maia Butsashvili – responded that MCCU has a Supervisory Board since 2000. It was reelected in 2004. The Board is formed by Georgian members and convened once a month. An Executive Director is accountable to the Board. Two board members are involved in implementation of the projects thus it can not be said that the Board has a complete independence though afore-mention is not creating a significant Conflict of Interest.

Tengiz Tsertsvadze– underlined unsuccessful performance of the programs implemented by NCDC during the leadership of Ms. Avaliani, Ms. Butsashvili and Mr. Kandelaki. He requested an explanation with regard to the component of State Program envisaging IDU's screening and noted that implementation of the component completely failed in 2012, while in 2011, only two disease cases were detected. Mr. Tsertsvadze referred to an official communication between AIDS Center, MoLHSA and NCDC regarding WHO European Action Plan envisaging 80% target for the indicator - percentage of most-at-risk population (MARPs) who received HIV test and presented Nata Avaliani's response that according to him revealed her non-awareness of such an important document. He addressed Ms. Butsashvili with the request to provide a guarantee for high performance of the GFATM funded programs while they failed to implement similar programs and with consideration of the fact that GFATM programs are much more difficult for implementation.

Maia Butsashvili and **Nata Avaliani**– strongly opposed the opinion expressed by Prof. Tsertsvadze and noted that NCDC has successfully implemented a lot of programs during the mentioned period which is acknowledged by other stakeholders. The issue of IDUs screening within the state program was a matter of discussion during various meetings. The mechanisms for expansion of the IDUs' coverage has been raised and discussed at the CCM meeting on December 24, 2010. After that series of meetings with participation of NCDC and the NGO sector dedicated to afore-mentioned problem were convened. They addressed the audience with the request to resume the debates on the issues raised by Mr. Tsertsvadze and thoroughly discuss them at another venue/occasion.

Sandra E. Roelofs – agreed with this opinion.

Khatuna Todadze – highly emphasized the intellectual capacity and the activities of MCCU in scientific field. She addressed the MCCU with following questions: 1. What is the reason that the organization mainly implementing scientific grants, expresses a call of interest for implementing purely managerial projects; 2. She noted that the team represented in the proposal does not have enough capacity in terms of fulfillment of financial operations, procurement and logistic issues. With this regard she enquired if the team is fully represented in the proposal. GPIC was addressed with the following question: what would be their mechanism to avoid delays in procurement that happened in the past.

Maia Butsashvili - responded that MCCU does not consider the project as purely managerial. The project will need serious intellectual capacity in the stage of planning, proposal writing and implementation. MCCU finds it very interesting to participate in the project as a PR.

Sandra E. Roelofs – asked Ms. Butsashvili if MCCU would consider itself as a potential PR for other future grants funded by the GFATM.

Maia Butsashvili – responded that the organization is ready and motivated to act as a PR for other GFATM grants. She noted that it would be desirable to announce a call of interest earlier than it was done taking into account the deadline for submission of a renewal request (February 15, 2013). She stated that MCCU has a longer organizational experience

than GPIC. The second issue raised by Ms. Todadze can be easily addressed by contracting additional staff in case of necessity.

Iza Bodokia - expressed the view that contracting of additional staff might increase expenses.

Maia Butsashvili - stated that financial aspects need to be discussed separately. She expressed surprise why the tender was announced if it is already decided to leave the same PR in order not to increase expenses.

Tengiz Tsertsvadze – stated that the GFATM funded programs represent healthcare programs and thus do not lie within the category of purely managerial.

Nata Avaliani– stated the employees have long personal experience in implementing of multi-million healthcare projects.

Maia Butsashvili – specified that the organization itself has experience in implementation of the healthcare projects (PMTCT, Prevalence and Awareness of blood borne viruses among Georgian health care workers funded by CRD). The scientific projects included a big-scale implementation component; a lot of trainings have been conducted.

Nata Avaliani – highlighted that MCCU proposes the following: *better coordination* between GFATM and State funded programs; versus a current PR which is concentrated only on project management a special emphasis will be made on *Sustainability Activities* (that have a paramount importance in terms of reduction of the GFATM funding); improved *Monitoring and Evaluation*.

Akaki Lochoshvili – stated that the shortcomings in PR performance are mainly associated with the transitional period and some external obstacles that hampered its work. In the shortest possible period of time all systems were put in place and drawbacks were improved. Currently GPIC has fully functional systems and thus the defects in performance observed during the transitional period will not occur again. He noted that a scope of work of PR is clearly defined by the guidelines and can not be adjusted to plans or intentions of any organization acting as PR. Mr. Lochoshvili declared that even a highly qualified procurement team of GPIC could not avoid some imperfection that happened during the transitional period. Afterwards he referred to the candidacy of Ms. Natalia Dvali and stated that afore-mentioned individual was working as a procurement specialist at GHSPIC and not as a procurement manager as indicated in MCCU proposal.

Maia Kavtaradze – stated that Ms. Dvali has never worked as a manager in a procurement field and this part of a proposal is not truthful unless a typo occurred.

Mamuka Japaridze – highly emphasized personal and professional skills of Ms. Natalia Dvali and noted that her knowledge and experience in procurement field is not enough for successful implementation of procurement activities of the GFATM grants. He also stated that this person has never been working at GHSPIC as a procurement manager. Besides that, the EU projects did not have a position of a procurement manager.

Nata Avaliani – insisted that Ms. Dvali worked in the capacity of a procurement manager at GHSPIC and EU project procurement manager at NCDC. In addition she was managing all procurements executed within the healthy life style initiative of the First Lady.

Akaki Lochoshvili – stated that in light of anticipated reduction of donors' support the state will have to gradually take over activities funded with external sources. He stated that during the years of implementation of the GFATM grants an excellent coordination with the state funded programs was ensured. The shortcomings happened as a result of rapid and non-coordinated changes in the design of state programs.

Zurab Danelia–requested more detailed information with regard to MCCU's special experience in HIV/AIDS as indicated in the proposal and especially in ARV treatment.

Maia Butsashvili – presented her own experience and experience of Mr. Kandelaki in the clinical part of HIV treatment.

Akaki Lochoshvili – noted that high expertise in this particular sector is not under question.

Nata Avaliani – stated that a Supervisory Board is functioning since establishment of MCCU while their competitor's Board was created just a few months ago.

Akaki Lochoshvili – noted that the organization had a Board similar to the Board of MCCU. This entity was assessed as unsatisfactory by the GFATM. Afterwards, a new unit has been created.

Maia Butsashvili – stated that a previous Board mentioned by Mr. Lochoshvili was not registered in the registry and thus can be deemed as an informal unit.

Mariam Jashi – gave the preference to dual mechanism of GFATM grants implementation envisaging delegation of functions between the two PRs (government and NGO sector). She stated that the strict timeline of today does not allow consideration of such option and noted that this issue could be discussed at a following CCM session.

Zurab Danelia – reminded attendees that in case of involvement of the governmental structure in the process more flexible mechanisms of state procurement should be ensured in advance.

Archil Talakvadze – addressed both candidate-organizations with the question regarding their organizational structure.

Akaki Lochoshvili – briefly presented an organogram of the organization. He noted that a classical vertical system is in place. They are 3 main units within the organization: program, procurement and finance. The program unit is a leading unit and others are considered being supportive ones. The functions of each unit and of employees are strictly defined hierarchically in order to avoid any overlap. The decision is made on a concrete level. The Supervisory Board represents a supreme governance body. The main processes are automated.

Maia Butsashvili – noted that an organizational chart is presented in the proposal. She specified the following organizational units: Board, Board Chairman, Executive Director, principal investigator - PI (for research projects), project director (for implementation projects). The Supervisory Board is convened once a month. Project Directors are fully responsible for the projects they are leading. An Executive Director is aware of all details of the projects. The organization is not very big and the informational flow is organized in a way that allows senior staff to have comprehensive and detailed information.

Archil Talakvadze – asked to specify if organizational chart is as follows: senior management team and projects team.

Maia Butsashvili – agreed and added that the organization is divided into departments as well. An externally hired person can act as a Project Coordinator.

Akaki Lochoshvili – enquired if the organizational structure allows a project director to be a subordinate employee.

Maia Butsashvili – admitted such possibility and added that a Supervisory Board balances such cases.

Amiran Gamkrelidze – highly emphasized both organizations. He noted that PR represents an executive body of the CCM. Strategic decisions are made by the CCM. Thus PR should be a managerial organization. Mr. Gamkrelidze stated that due consideration should be given to the opinion expressed by Ms. Jashi regarding mechanism of implementation of GFATM grants.

Sandra E. Roelofs – summarized the discussion and expressed her hope that regardless the results of the election both candidate-organizations will continue collaboration.

Eka Iashvili – asked the attendees to leave the conference room.

Envelopes with filled forms were put in the center of the conference table by the members. The Commission comprising of the following members: Mrs. Sandra E. Roelofs, Mr. Amiran Gamkrelidze, Ms. Eka Iashvili counted the points. The procedure was observed by Mrs. Marika Goguadze. Upon the completion of the procedure the attendees were called back to the conference room.

Sandra E. Roelofs – revealed the results of the election and stated the following. The quantity of filled forms was equal to 17. Out of this number 14 forms reflected higher scores for the winner organization. The higher points for defendant were reflected in 2 forms. One form had equal quantity of points for both organizations. The defendant organization did not gather 70 points (minimum barrier) in 11 cases out of total 17. In summary: 1509 (88, 8) points were received by GPIC and 1070 (62.9) points were received by MCCU. The Chairperson underlined democracy of the election held. The Chairperson addressed the members with the request to sign the evaluation form (back page) and specially elaborated CCM approval form in case they agree with the results of the election. All voting members endorsed their approval with the signatures. (documents attached)

The representatives of MCCU asked to leave the meeting room.

Tamar Sirbiladze – announced the USAID approved the CCM request for financial support necessary for hiring a consultant to elaborate GEO-H-GPIC grant renewal request. The sum allocated for CCM assistance in the budget of GHPP project will be used for this purpose.

Sandra E. Roelofs – thanked Ms. Sirbiladze and gave the floor to **Mr. Lochoshvili**.

Akaki Lochoshvili – thanked the CCM members. Afterwards he focused on two tasks: resubmission of HIV grant renewal (deadline – February 15, 2013) and submission of TB grant renewal request (deadline – March 31, 2013). Mr. Lochoshvili declared that with USAID's assistance, a consultant Dr. Viorel Soltan, will be visiting Georgia early February for HIV proposal development, while with the TB TEAM support, TB consultant will be involved in TB proposal development. Mr. Lochoshvil informed that the draft versions of HIV sub proposals from Sub Recipients (SRs) which incorporates recent recommendations of an external evaluation mission, along with finance parts, have already been submitted by the SRs; He made a short review of the objectives, underlined a strict timeline in terms of HIV Renewal resubmission and suggested to conduct series of working meetings dedicated to further elaboration of the components of the proposal with involvement of CCM members and other stakeholders. He offered to circulate by e-mail the final proposal among CCM members for the endorsement.

The members agreed with Mr. Lochoshvili's proposal.

Finally the reported briefly overviewed projects implementation status and noted that Progress Update and Disbursement Request (PUDR) will be sent to the GFATM and CCM members shortly.

Sandra E. Roelofs – reminded the audience that TB World Day (March 24) is approaching and stated that an information clip aimed at raising awareness on TB issues among general population will be prepared and broadcasted. The Chairperson gave the floor to **Ms. Gabunia**.

Tamar Gabunia – presented to the audience a final draft of TB Strategy which is based on a comprehensive Situation Analysis. Ms. Gabunia noted that there are pending issues concerning management of the National TB Program that require further discussion and reaching a consensus. Afterwards the reporter presented the trends in TB transmission (1990-2011) and stated that starting from 2009 a slight decrease in prevalence, incidence and notification rate is observed. She gave a special attention to the issue of organizational structure of TB program and noted that recent rapid changes in the structure triggered the elaboration of this relatively short-term Strategy to guide the National TB response until 2015. Ms. Gabunia noted that clearly defined functions of all stakeholders and identification of a leading agency responsible for TB control nationwide represent a matter of high importance. Afterwards the reporter specified existing challenges and specially underlined high default rate. A special consideration was given to the quality of TB services, IC measures and reduction of stigma and discrimination. 100% dependence on the GFATM funding in terms of drug procurement was identified as a prospective

challenge. The existing opportunities for overcoming the challenges were identified as follows: donors' support; involvement of state institutions and of NGO sector. Ms. Gabunia noted that 7 NGOs became involved in implementation of TB activities through the small grants funded by USAID Georgia Tuberculosis Prevention Project (TPP).

Sandra E. Roelofs – expressed a notion on involvement of NGOs in follow-up of TB treatment among recently released prisoners and issuing small grants with this purpose. The Chairperson underlined a special acuteness of the issue in the context of a recent big-scale amnesty. Another option for setting the problem was specified as an establishment of a working group.

Archil Talakvadze – thanked Mrs. Roelofs for this important initiative and stated that MCLA had a number of meetings with representatives of NCDC and Parliament. In addition the possibility of amending current legislation envisaging forced treatment is considered.

Sandra E. Roelofs – gave the preference to incentives mechanism versus punitive measures and underlined the importance of a prompt reaction to this acute problem as time goes by and persons get infected.

Tamara Sirbiladze – announced that on February 6, 2013 two memorandums will be signed between USAID and MCLA. One of them is focused on HIV prevention activities especially within juvenile group. Another one is aimed at strengthening of TB control.

Tamar Gabunia – continued her presentation and specified the goal of the strategy (stop the spread of TB and reduction of TB burden) and some major indicators and targets: the case notification rate will decrease at least by 1% annually (Baseline in 2011:105 per 100,000 population); TB mortality rate will decrease to 3 per 100,000 population; MDR TB prevalence among previously treated cases will be < 25 (baseline in 2011 – 32%); The following activities were highlighted: sustainability of universal access to diagnosis and treatment, empowered capabilities, improved information systems, operational research, prevention activities in penitentiary system, adjustment of physical infrastructure, expansion of community involvement, TB/HIV collaborative activities. Ms. Gabunia presented to the attendees financial assumptions showing anticipated gaps in financing of such activities as: Infection Control (IC) measures, Human Resources, second-line drugs. Finally Ms. Gabunia listed the documents annexed to the Strategy: Action Plan, the list of operational research, Technical Assistance Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

Mariam Jashi – expressed her gratitude to USAID TPP/URC and personally to Ms. Gabunia. Underlined the importance of National TB Strategy and noted that the issue was seriously discussed during the meeting between MoLHSA, Parliament, NCDC and main TB stakeholders. While speaking on the governance of TB control Ms. Jashi noted that despite the fact that NCDC is considered to be a leading agency in management of the diseases including HIV/AIDS and TB, currently the organization does not have enough capacity for implementing such function. A Deputy Minister highlighted the importance of regional coordination and stated that a vertical system should be restored at this level. She

noted that the strategy document will be once more comprehensively reviewed by MoLHSA. Afterwards she presented to the audience an offer from MSF France envisaging putting in place protocols for two new generation MDR TB drugs. She expressed the hope that CCM will support such an important initiative.

Mamuka Japaridze – stated that NCTLD has been in contact with research groups involved in post marketing studies of new MDR TB drugs. Currently specialists of TB Center are considering pros and cons of starting proposed trial.

He referred to the issue of Georgian residents travelling to France for receiving TB services despite the fact they can receive the same treatment in the country. He expressed the notion that this fact is associated with involvement of some of them in the trials of new TB drugs.

Maia Kavtaradze – underlined that proposed study design with the new anti TB drugs (Delamanin and Bedaquiline) should be very carefully assessed; furthermore inclusion of Linezolid should also be considered.

It was agreed that comprehensive discussions with involvement of all interested parties regarding appropriateness on establishment in the country of the drugs being in the third phase of clinical trial will be held.

Mamuka Japaridze – stated that some acute issues addressed by the Strategy require decision making, even on a legislative level which is far beyond the competence of the strategy working group.

Akaki Lochoshvili – requested MoLHSA's assistance in facilitation of GeneXpert Cartridge's import to the country. He also mentioned the issue of import procedure of anti TB and ARV drugs that are not registered in the country and have been procured through VPP and GDF direct procurement.

Rusudan Klimiashvili – announced that Green Light Committee will be visiting the country on July 1-5 to conduct a joint mission with Global Drug Facility.

Sandra E. Roelofs– raised an issue of treatment of Hepatitis C. The Chairperson referred to the statement of the Minister of Health declaring that there is no room to double the budget of Healthcare Programs for proper management of Hepatitis C and thus coverage of relatively small target groups with appropriate services seems to be more realistic. Mrs. Roelofs gave the floor to **Mr. Talakvadze**.

Archil Talakvadze– specified a lourd heritage received by a new leadership of Penitentiary System. He especially underlined an acuteness of the problem related with prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Hepatitis C. He presented to the audience the initiative of MCLA to develop a program that will respond to the following issues: number of beneficiaries, criteria for the enrollment, implementing institutions, the cost of preventive, diagnostic and treatment services. The reporter noted that the program will be developed and agreed with the CCM and all interested parties and requested an active involvement of the CCM. The program will be presented to the government and donor organizations for

funding. He made an assumption that the treatment of Hepatitis C in penitentiary establishments might be solely funded by the government.

Maia Tsereteli – announced that the results of financial gap analysis will be shared with interested parties on February 1.

Zurab Danelia – announced that he will be participating in a conference dedicated to the issues of Hepatitis C (Ukraine, Kiev, February 5-8).

It was agreed that CCM Oversight Plan will be circulated among members and endorsed by e-mail. A new package of drug legislation will be overviewed at the next CCM meeting.

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

Decisions:

1. To accept to CCM membership Ms. Ketevan Natriashvili, Deputy Minister of Education and Science and Mr. Archil Talakvadze, Deputy Minister of Corrections and Legal Assistance;
2. To elect GPIC as a Principal Recipient for GFATM GEO- H-GPIC grant;
3. Proposal for renewal of GEO-H-GPIC grant will be circulated among CCM members and endorsed via e-voting;
4. CCM oversight plan will be circulated among CCM members and endorsed via e-voting;



Sandra Elisabeth Roelofs

Chairperson of the CCM



N. Khonelidze
Natia Khonelidze

Administrative Assistant