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## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

### Fifty-fourth session

Vienna, 21-25 March 2011

Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

### Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: demand reduction and related measures

## Promoting coordination and alignment of decisions between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

### Note by the Secretariat

#### I. Introduction

1. The present note has been prepared pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 51/14, entitled “Promoting coordination and alignment of decisions between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS”. In that resolution, the Commission called for collaboration among Member States represented both in the Commission and on the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) towards the promotion of better coordination and alignment of the HIV/AIDS response in order to scale up towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention, care, treatment and support services for drug users; requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to share relevant decisions of the Programme Coordinating Board with the Member States at each session of the Commission held in the first half of the year, starting with the fifty-second session; and requested UNODC to transmit relevant resolutions of the Commission each year to the Chair of the Programme Coordinating Board.

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\* To be issued as E/CN.7/2011/1.



## **II. Promoting the sharing of decisions and resolutions among Member States represented both in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and on the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS**

2. Relevant resolutions of the Commission were transmitted to the Chair of the Programme Coordinating Board on 9 December 2010.

3. The Programme Coordinating Board, at its twenty-sixth meeting, held in Geneva from 22 to 24 June 2010, and at its twenty-seventh meeting, held in Geneva from 6 to 8 December 2010, recalled that all aspects of UNAIDS work were directed by the following guiding principles: (a) they should be aligned with national stakeholders' priorities; (b) they should be based on the meaningful and measurable involvement of civil society, especially people living with HIV and populations most at risk of HIV infection; (c) they should be based on human rights and gender equality; (d) they should be based on the best available scientific evidence and technical knowledge; (e) they should promote comprehensive responses to AIDS integrating prevention, treatment, care and support; and (f) they should be based on the principle of non-discrimination.

4. At its twenty-sixth meeting, the Programme Coordinating Board discussed and arrived at decisions, recommendations and conclusions with regard to, inter alia, agenda item 2, "Ensuring non-discrimination in responses to HIV". The Programme Coordinating Board requested UNAIDS, together with Member States, to engage with ministries of health, professional health-care associations and civil society to intensify efforts to implement workplace programmes for health workers with a focus on counteracting stigma, and train health-care workers on all aspects of HIV, including non-discrimination, informed consent, confidentiality, duty to treat, sexuality and specific needs of key populations, so as to ensure that staff in health-care settings provide care to all populations in a manner that is non-discriminatory and protective of their human rights. The Programme Coordinating Board further requested UNAIDS, together with Member States and other partners, to intensify its assistance to networks of people living with HIV and key populations at risk to measure HIV-related stigma and discrimination and to mobilize comprehensive responses to reduce it.

5. At its twenty-sixth meeting, under agenda item 4.2, "Report of the Programme Coordinating Board Task Force on the second independent evaluation of UNAIDS follow-up related to all aspects of governance", the Programme Coordinating Board requested, inter alia, the UNAIDS Executive Director and all heads of UNAIDS Co-sponsor agencies to revitalize the role of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations through the holding of two regular, formal Committee meetings per annum. The revitalization will be supported by, inter alia, ensuring that the relevant objectives and indicators agreed in UNAIDS global-level results frameworks are incorporated in the corporate results framework, or equivalent, of each co-sponsor and, building on the solid progress that has been made, ensuring that HIV is part of the regular agenda for co-sponsor agencies.

6. Also at its twenty-sixth meeting, under agenda item 4.3, "Mission statement", the Programme Coordinating Board endorsed a new vision statement for UNAIDS,

“Zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS-related deaths”, and a new UNAIDS mission statement, as follows:

UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, is an innovative United Nations partnership that leads and inspires the world in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, which fulfils its mission by: (a) uniting the efforts of the United Nations system, civil society, national governments, the private sector, global institutions and people living with and most affected by HIV; (b) speaking out in solidarity with the people most affected by HIV in defence of human dignity, human rights and gender equality; (c) mobilizing political, technical, scientific and financial resources and holding ourselves and others accountable for results; (d) empowering agents of change with strategic information and evidence to influence and ensure that resources are targeted where they deliver the greatest impact and bring about a prevention revolution; and (e) supporting inclusive country leadership for sustainable responses that are integral to and integrated with national health and development efforts.

7. At its twenty-seventh meeting, held in Geneva from 6 to 8 December 2010, under agenda item 2.1, the Programme Coordinating Board adopted the UNAIDS strategy for the period 2011-2015. The strategy presents the UNAIDS vision regarding the long-term future of HIV with a corresponding medium-term agenda and a series of goals for the global HIV response over the next five years. In accordance with the UNAIDS technical support division of labour, UNODC leads the work and engagement of UNAIDS — the co-sponsoring agency partners and the secretariat — to support the achievement of the strategy’s goal of preventing new HIV infections among people who use drugs. Ensuring synergies and effective partnerships with drug dependence treatment and sexual and reproductive health services remains a major opportunity for the response.

8. Significantly reducing new HIV infections will require a radical reshaping of the global response. As presented in the strategy, efforts to that end are guided by three strategic directions: (a) revolutionizing HIV prevention, politics, policies and practices (i) to shift the debate from HIV prevalence to incidence, enabling the identification of transmission hot spots, (ii) to empower people, particularly young people, to demand and own the response and (iii) to incentivize political leaders to focus on populations and programmes that will make a difference in reducing new infections; (b) catalysing the next generation of treatment, care and support to deliver a radically simplified treatment platform based on new drug regimens, adopting innovative delivery models that both reduce unit costs and empower communities to demand and deliver better and more equitable treatment, care and support services that maximize linkages with other health and community services; and (c) advancing human rights and gender equality for the HIV response by (i) ending the HIV-related stigma, discrimination, gender inequality and violence against women and girls, which drive the risk of and vulnerability to HIV infection by keeping people from having access to prevention, treatment, care and support services, (ii) putting laws, policies and programmes in place to create legal environments that protect people from infection and support access to justice and (iii) protecting human rights in the context of HIV, including the rights of people living with HIV, women, young people, men who have sex with men, people who use drugs and sex workers and their clients.

9. Also at its twenty-seventh meeting, under agenda item 3, “Gender sensitivity of AIDS responses” the Programme Coordinating Board requested UNAIDS, inter alia, to work in partnership with national stakeholders, women, girls and key populations as defined in the UNAIDS strategy for the period 2011-2015 to promote and facilitate better linkages between sexual and reproductive health, human rights and HIV through support at the country level towards the development of an enabling policy and legal environment free of stigma and discrimination, strengthened health and related systems, and integrated and comprehensive health services, for the improved health outcomes of women, girls and key populations.

10. Pursuant to Commission resolution 51/14, the decisions, recommendations and conclusions adopted by the Programme Coordinating Board at its twenty-sixth<sup>1</sup> and twenty-seventh<sup>2</sup> meetings will be made available to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session.

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<sup>1</sup> Available from [http://data.unaids.org/pub/PCB/2010/pcb27\\_20101105\\_pcb\\_report\\_26\\_en.pdf](http://data.unaids.org/pub/PCB/2010/pcb27_20101105_pcb_report_26_en.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Available from [http://data.unaids.org/pub/PCB/2010/pcb27\\_decisions\\_en.pdf](http://data.unaids.org/pub/PCB/2010/pcb27_decisions_en.pdf).