



**Tenth Executive Board Session**  
12-13 May 2009 - WHO, Geneva, Switzerland

**Chair Summary**

**1. Quorum**

The Board convened in Geneva on the 12-13 May, in the presence of all its Members. The meeting was opened by its Chair, Philippe Douste-Blazy. The Chair took note that the Board reached its quorum.

**2. Introduction**

The Chair welcomed the Board and the Agenda was reviewed and adopted. The Chair welcomed the work achieved by the Policy and Strategy Committee (PSC) and the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) and the contributions they have been able to bring to this Board meeting.

**3. Overview of progress made since EB9**

The Executive Secretary provided an overview of work conducted since EB9:

- The organization of committee meetings for the PSC and FAC;
- Preparation of the 2008 Annual Report;
- The increased scope of work performed by the Secretariat;
- Progress on the development of the patent pool initiative
- Development with regard to trademark protection.

The Board was informed that Morocco was intending to implement the air tax.

**4. Update on Human Resources**

The Secretariat updated the Board on the current vacancy notifications, two D1 positions (Directors of Administration and Finance and of Market Dynamics and Operations) and one P6 (Coordinator, Market Dynamics) along with a structure of the current Secretariat. The Board expressed its concern over the length of time the recruitment process was taking, along with discrepancies between the job descriptions approved and those posted. A full Human Resources plan linked to the Strategy is to be presented at EB11.

## **5. Report of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC)**

The Chair of FAC along with the Secretariat presented an overview of matters approved by the FAC and presented for information to the EB four documents for approval by the Executive Board: (1) a position paper on UNITAID's financial commitments guidelines, (2) the Unaudited Financial Report for 2006-2007, (3) the Unaudited Financial Report for 2008 and (4) the Budget for 2009. All of these reports were approved by the Board. Issues were raised with regards to commitments and the importance of firm pledges was reiterated. The Board was informed that France had made a verbal pledge in relation to its contribution for 2009. Given the current financial environment, the Board requested that work on risk mitigation be conducted. An overview of the financial situation, taking into account long-term financial commitments and contributions from donors should be provided for future Board decisions with a budgetary impact. The FAC will also work towards producing guidelines for multi-year contributions.

The Board approved five resolutions pertaining to Finance. These are Financial Commitments, the Unaudited Financial Report 2006-2007 and 2008. The 2009 Budget of total resources of US\$ 677,054,000 and operating expenses of US\$ 565,176,000. A resolution in relation to the reduction of the budget for the Office of the Chair by US\$160,000 was also approved.

## **6. UNITAID Strategy**

The Secretariat presented the work accomplished since the Policy and Strategy Committee met in April.

Three areas of UNITAID overarching strategy, have been identified:

1. Development of a set of Criteria from which projects can be assessed;
2. Development of a Transition Strategy; and
3. Development of an M&E Strategy.

The Board felt that not enough had been achieved since EB9 on the UNITAID overarching Strategy and requested that this should become a priority for the Secretariat over the coming months. A Working Group comprising of Experts, PRC Members, two Board Members and the Secretariat is to be set up to provide advice on criteria in relation to market impact and co-morbidities.

A resolution was approved outlining the requirements in relation to finalizing UNITAID overarching Strategy, including a Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy by EB11.

## **7. Update on Operations**

The Secretariat updated the Board on the current projects. Overall, good progress has been made on all projects. A number of projects, notably in TB and PMTCT presented problems that are currently being addressed. Some areas still require strengthening such as reporting systems and information gathered from Partners. The development of an operations manual along with implementers' meetings are planned for 2009. The Board requested that a more formal, annual report on Projects was required for EB11.

*a. Project Evaluation/review.*

A resolution was approved requesting the Secretariat to arrange for an independent programmatic assessment of UNITAID-supported projects. It is important for UNITAID to verify how projects are making effective use of UNITAID-financed commodities and that they meet UNITAID's strategic objectives. The programmatic assessment should be carried out on a number of levels, including country-level, project and additional project assessment.

*b. Establishment of Proposal Review Committee (PRC)*

The PRC Nominations Sub Committee has been established comprising of four Board/PSC members, one representative of the Secretariat and the Chair of the PSC. A consultant will also assist the group with pre-selection procedures. The Secretariat is to establish the TORs for the PRC and establish a timeline for this process.

A resolution on the PRC Nominations Sub-Committee Tasks was approved.

*c. Frequency for Calls for Proposals*

The Secretariat presented a resolution on calls for proposals. The Board felt that more information was required on the criteria for their frequency before the resolution could be accepted. The resolution will be revised by the Secretariat assisted by delegates from France and the NGOs, and presented again at EB11.

*d. HIV Viral Load testing*

Further to recent information gathered on viral load testing and its use in resource-poor settings a resolution on a call for a thematic proposal on viral load was approved by the Board. The Board felt that there was still uncertainty around the types of proposals that would be submitted and their ability to impact the market. In light of the development of UNITAID overarching Strategy the Board felt it was important to stress that the projects would be reviewed carefully, and that by agreeing to a call for proposal did not commit the Board to approving subsequent funding of the projects.

*e. Projects for funding consideration*

The Board reviewed each of the project and considered financial implications before deciding on funding. The following decisions were made:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding request</b>	<b>Approval of resolution for funding project</b>
GDF request for expansion of MDR-TB scale-up initiative project.	USD 16,384,000	Yes
GDF / GLI / FIND extension of MDR TB Diagnostics project to a number of additional countries.	USD 61,432,085	Yes - clarification on market impact included in resolution
Project extension for CHAI second-line HIV/AIDS project 2010-2011.	USD 120,410,000	Yes - information on pricing reduction also required on a regular basis
Harmonization request from CHAI		Yes - no monetary implications
Global Fund Proposal for Funding MDR TB project as one of the roadmap areas of collaboration.	USD 101,626,943	No - resolution revised, further information required before re-submittal

The Board felt that overall it was difficult to assess the projects without the UNITAID Strategy in place. They felt that all the MDR-TB projects in particular lacked market impact components and transition strategy. In light of this lack of UNITAID Strategy, the UK felt it was unable to make an informed decision and abstained from voting on the resolutions.

### **8. Update on the road map with the Global Fund and the AMFm**

An update was given by the Secretariat. The governance position of a Vice-Chair of the AMFm Ad hoc committee was raised. The Chair of the Board proposed South Korea or Norway to represent UNITAID. Both representatives stated that they would require more time to consider this proposal. The Chair confirmed that he would discuss the issue further with concerned members.

### **9. Patent Pool**

The Secretariat presented a progress report on the developments towards the establishment of a HIV medicines Patent Pool. A work plan was presented based on a three-phased approach along with a detailed timeline and deliverables. The Board showed its appreciation of the progress made and considered the work plan and budget realistic.

The Board agreed on the importance of moving forward on the Patent Pool and approved the resolution.

### **10. Update on Communication**

The Secretariat was pleased to announce the 'going live' of UNITAID's new website, along with the publication of the 2008 Annual Report. A presentation was given by the Secretariat on the upcoming 'Thank you' campaign due to be launched in September. The Board emphasized the importance of acquiring media space 'pro bono' and testing messaging from the campaign. The Secretariat pointed out the need for more stories in order to provide material for the press and media; the Communities and NGOs agreed to help. The Board requested that the Communication Committee participate in the development of a seamless communication plan between UNITAID and the Millennium Foundation.

### **11. Registration/protection of the UNITAID trademark**

The Secretariat outlined the issues around the protection of UNITAID's name. Both WHO and the Millennium Foundation were prepared to assist with the process. The Board approved the resolution to take this forward and authorized it to commit funds for the purpose of CHF 125,000. In all cases a legal third party will have to act on behalf of UNITAID to protect the UNITAID trademark .

### **12. Information on influenza**

In light of the recent request by the Director General of WHO Dr Margaret Chan, for UNITAID's ability to assist in funding flu treatments in light of global pandemic, the Secretariat provided the Board with an update on the situation. Given that this is an exceptional situation, exceptional measures are needed. The Board wished to be kept informed of the evolution of the pandemic and any possible role UNITAID might play.

### **13. Vice-chairmanship**

The Board agreed on the importance of a Vice-Chair to the UNITAID Board. Formal inclusion of this into the UNITAID constitution is required. Until then, the Board approved a resolution appointing Chile as Vice-Chair of the UNITAID Executive Board.

### **14. Governance**

In light of the evolving structure of UNITAID, the Secretariat pointed out the need to review governance procedures. The Board approved the resolution that the working group established at EB3 to deal with governance, meet in order to establish the issues and provide guidance and feedback.

The Board also approved the resolution for additional operating procedures. The above working group should recommend to the Board how operating procedures can be further refined.

### **15. Resource mobilization committee**

The Chair informed the Board of recent achievement made by the committee along with further developments. A work plan has been drawn up with a view to attracting further countries to implement an air tax.

### **16. Next Meetings**

The first implementer's meeting is scheduled later this year in Nairobi the exact date to be confirmed by the Secretariat.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Executive Board is to be held in Geneva on the 10-11 December.



**Philippe Douste-Blazy**