



9th Executive Board Ad Hoc Session
29 January 2009 - WHO, Geneva, Switzerland

Chair Summary

1. Quorum

The Board convened in Geneva on the 29 January, 2009, 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 Executive Secretary provided an overview of the documents distributed to the Board Members and highlighted the fact that the purpose of the meeting was to agree on the composition and Terms of Reference (TORs) of the committees as well as to discuss the approval of the AMFm project proposal submitted by the Global Fund.

3. Development of TOR for the committees

The Board provided extra information to be included with the TORs of the committees. These comments were recorded by the Secretariat and included in the TORs. It was also **agreed that UNITAID by laws would be amended** to reflect the creation of the Committees. The composition of the Committee Members would be reviewed on a yearly basis.

4. Composition and Terms of Reference of the Policy and Strategy Committee

The TORs for Policy and Strategy Committee were redrafted in light of comments from the Board. The composition of this committee was discussed and concerns were raised over how many members the Committee should have. Norway will Chair this Committee and current Member suggestions include: African Union; Brazil; France; the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Republic of Korea; NGOs; and WHO. Luxemburg will serve as an advisory to the group. Republic of Korea and Brazil, proposed to serve as Vice Chair to the Committee. The Board expressed the need for a **Sub Committee to assist in nominating the experts on the Expert Advisory Group** and this was included in the TORs. The Executive Board **approved the 'UNITAID Policy and Strategy Committee Terms of Reference'**.

5. Composition and Terms of Reference of the Finance and Administration Committee

Comments from the Board were recorded for the TOR of the Finance and Administration Committee. Issues on geographical diversity were noted with regards to the composition of the Members. France will Chair this group with the United Kingdom as Vice Chair. Members will include: African Union; Chile; the Communities; the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and WHO. Spain will serve as an advisory to the group. Comments were noted and will be incorporated into the TOR which will subsequently be circulated to the Board for final approval.

6. Composition and Terms of Reference of the Communication Committee

Comments were taken from the Board on the TOR of the Communication Committee. The Chair of Board will Chair this group and Members will include: Chile; the Communities; NGOs; and WHO. Comments were noted and will be incorporated into the TOR which will subsequently be circulated to the Board for final approval.

7. Nomination of Board Members to assist in the Selection of members of the Expert Committees

A Sub Committee to the Policy and Strategy Committee is to be created that will assist in the Selection of Members of the Expert Committee. France and the Republic of Korea expressed their desire to sit on the Nomination Sub Committee. The Board agreed that there should be between two and four Board representatives on this Sub Committee, along with two Secretariat representatives and two Expert representatives. These individuals are yet to be decided. A paragraph that described the composition was included in the TOR for the Policy and Strategy Committee and **approved** by the Board.

8. Affordable Medicines Facility for Malaria (AMFm)

The Executive Secretary recalled that the Board had requested additional information on the project, which had been provided. The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Roll Back Malaria and WHO provided further technical presentations on the AMFm. They were confident that with the financial backing of the Global Fund and UNITAID, the AMFm project would be successful in achieving its aim so long as it was executed in a timely manner.

The Chair of the Interim Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) referred to his report and various observations made therein. He commented on the project and applauded the new proposal and the additional information and gave his support to the project subject to the conditions stated in his report. The Board reviewed the resolution on the AMFm and the Board's comments were incorporated to the text. **The Board approved the AMFm resolution** to support the project with funding of up to US\$ 130,000,000 for the two years of Phase 1. The Board then also **approved** the resolution on the request for payment to undertake ACT forecasting services, to be issued under WHO rules as a RfP.

9. Concept note on Artemisinin

Following discussions from the Board of the issues at stake and taking into consideration the comments made by the IEAG, it was felt that more expert opinion was required on the forecasting of Artemisinin. **The Executive Board approved the resolution on the Concept Note on Artemisinin Supply to meet the needs of ACT manufacturers 2010 / 2011.**

10. Update on UNITAID's first technical meeting on Viral Load

The meeting in Johannesburg at the end of January, explored the usefulness of viral load testing for diagnosis and monitoring the health of HIV patients. In developed countries it is commonly used in patient treatment to monitor drug failure and assist in patients prognosis. Finance, logistics and medical structures remain an obstacle to the use of viral load testing in the developing country setting. The meeting concluded that UNITAID could play a role in reducing the price of tests along with the costs of second and third line ARV regimens. The Chair of the Board called for this issue to be included on the Agenda on the next Executive Board meeting in May.

11. Any other business

The resolution on resource mobilization to expand the Air Ticket Levy was presented to the Board. The Chair noted the interest of countries to join UNITAID and apply for the levy, and believed that appointing a Task Force to further support efforts would be a considerable asset. This Task force will be Chaired by Ambassador Louis Charles Viossat. The Executive Board **approved** the Resolution, 'Resource Mobilization to expand the Air Ticket Levy'. Further issues of membership, action plan, terms of reference and timeline will be prepared and submitted electronically to the Board members for approval by mid-February 2009.

Philippe Douste-Blazy