



Chair's Summary
UNITAID Executive Board meeting
8-9 March 2007

1. **Quorum:** the Board convened in Geneva on March 8 and 9, 2007, in the presence of all its members. The meeting was opened by its Chair, Minister Philippe Douste Blazy. The Board took note that it reached its quorum (i.e. a majority of its 9 voting members) and was in position to make decisions.
2. **Election of the Chair :** The chair, Philippe Douste Blazy, has been re-elected unanimously by the Board, for a two years period. Board members thanked the Chair for his commitment and for the first results, which have been reached in a short period. The Chair indicated that he would continue to work in three main directions:
 - Continue to attract new members.
 - Ensure that UNITAID operates in complementarity with other initiatives and not as a competitor.
 - Promote UNITAID worldwide as a socially-minded approach ("une demarche citoyenne")
3. **Choice of the Executive Secretary:** Further to the selection process, and the audition of the five short listed candidates, the Board has decided to recommend Mr Jorge Bermudez as its' preferred candidate for the position of Executive Secretary of UNITAID , to the WHO Director General.

Report on the status of actions

4. **Paediatric ARV :** The agreement with the Clinton foundation (CHAI) has been signed, and this action has started in November 2006 in the field. Today 46 000 children are under treatment, of which 4000 represent new treatments. Already 31 countries signed agreements with CHAI. The goal is to reach 125 000 children by the end of 2007. The first and second disbursements, of USD 6.6 million and USD 2.5 million, respectively, were made by UNITAID. A third disbursement is expected to occur by end of March 2007.
5. **2nd line ARV :** The selection process of suppliers was concluded, launched by CHAI on March 7, 2007, and presented to the Board. It will consist in a 3 phases process.
 1. selection of the premier supplier, based on COST+ method (for up to 70% of the volume);
 2. establishment of a reference price set up by the premier supplier and possibility for other suppliers to meet this price and become the secondary suppliers; and

3. final determination of a supplier pool, meeting certain quality and price criteria.
6. ACT scale up : The Board has allocated USD 19 021 239 for 12 243 489 treatments for 2007 and has committed for a total scale up of 50 777 927 treatments by 2010. A MoU should be being finalized and should be signed among UNITAID, the Global Fund and UNICEF in the coming weeks.
7. ACT Liberia & Burundi : This action, which received a political green light at the previous Executive Board meeting, was submitted for formal approval at the present Board meeting. After approval by the Board, and signature of the agreement by the Secretariat, shipments will start in the coming days.
8. MDR-TB : The list of countries has been finalized. A letter of agreement currently being developed between UNITAID, GLC and the Global Fund, is likely to be signed in the coming days.
9. Paediatric TB : The letter of agreement has been signed on 10 January 2007 and a first disbursement of USD 864,000 was made by UNITAID. A second disbursement is scheduled in March 2007. According to GDF, the drugs for which a tender has been launched, should be delivered to the countries in September 2007, the latest.
10. Round 6: The Global Fund and the Secretariat are working to clarify the conditions of collaboration, and use of UNITAID funds and to ensure that the countries/ principal recipients of the Global Fund grants observe reference price, that a reporting mechanism is established, and that there is no overlapping with other actions funded by UNITAID. UNITAID financial support to Round 6 will need to be disbursed by September 2007.

Governance

11. Acceptation of UNITAID new donors by the Board : 18 African countries have joined UNITAID on 16 February 2007. South Korea and Spain confirmed their commitment to financially support UNITAID and were endorsed as new donor members to UNITAID. Spain has decided to allocate 15MS\$ in 2007 and confirmed its intention to consider a continuous financial support to UNITAID for the future years.
12. Proposals for enlargement of the Board: Further to the UK written proposal on the governance structure of UNITAID, it was proposed that a working group of the Board be established to work on a report and proposals for the next Board meeting. The Board appointed France, NGO and Brazil as members of this group.
13. Consultative forum: The document on the implementation of the consultative forum was examined by the Board, as well as a suggestion of a list of potential participants. The Board decided to hold the consultative forum at the time of the next Board meeting, in May, with the objective of ensuring a better understanding by the various stakeholders on UNITAID's activities and of widening ownership and support.
14. Other meetings : A technical meeting will be organised in April with UNITAID partners and various stakeholders to discuss about progress to date and possible areas of further collaboration.

A meeting with Ministers of Health (in particular, from Africa) will be organized at the time of the WHO General Assembly in May (around 14 May 2007).

Partnership policy

15. Partnership with the Global Fund: In the near term, Round 6 MoU is expected to be finalized and signed within a month.
On the middle term strategic aspects, next steps are: 1. Participation of UNITAID to GFATM PSC in March 2007. UNITAID-GFATM roadmap will be discussed as well as a feasibility study on voluntary procurement, 2. another discussion on the UNITAID-GFATM roadmap will be scheduled for next UNITAID Board in May 2007, board members are invited to send their comments on the paper on the guidelines for the UNITAID GFATM collaboration within the next days to Secretariat so that this document be finalized, 3. A first roadmap proposal is to be jointly prepared by September 2007 by the UNITAID secretariat and GFATM secretariat and will be presented to GFATM Board in November 2007.
16. UNITAID policy on partnerships: A draft document on partnership policy has been presented to the Board. The Board decided to appoint several Board members to work on a more comprehensive and refined version of UNITAID policy on partnership and to submit a proposal for consideration at the next Board in May.

Long term financial commitment

17. Long term financial commitment: The Secretariat was instructed to consult donors on the formalization of such long term commitment. This consultation has not yet been finalized. At this stage, UK concluded a bilateral agreement with WHO to formalize its contribution to UNITAID. This arrangement between UK DFID and WHO was concluded for a period of 20 year. The chair requested that all donors provide all relevant information to UNITAID Secretariat so that a report on long term financial commitment be finalized and presented at the next Board meeting.

Update on UNITAID Board decisions

18. Program Mother to Child Transmission : The Board agreed to support the proposal from UNICEF and WHO, on the basis of the budget indicated in the resolution, of up to US\$ 20,893,506 million for 2007 and 2008. The resolution will confirm that UNITAID provide support to countries for the purchase of quality drugs or diagnostics only at the lowest possible prices negotiated by UNICEF .
19. ACT for Burundi and Liberia: The Board approved the commitment for ACTs in Liberia and Burundi in 2007, for a total amount of USD 1 334 755. Upon signature of the MoU with UNICEF and WHO, the implementation of this actions resulting in rapid shipments to Liberia could be made without delay.
20. Pediatric ARVs: Further to the update the budget for pediatric ARV provided by CHAI based on more accurate information on needs provided by national governments, partners and suppliers, the Board adopted the proposed resolution for a new total of USD 35.9 million (instead of USD 33.4 million previously agreed).

Other issues

21. Pro bono partnership offer: BBDO International presented a pro bono partnership proposal to UNITAID. The Board took note of this proposal while considering relevant (i) to analyze external technical costs associated to this proposal, and (ii) to take into account WHO requirements in terms of adjudication process for pro bono proposals.

22. UNITAID transparency policy: Following NGO and WHO's proposed amendments on the transparency policy, the chair proposed to organize a technical meeting in the coming two weeks, in order to finalize a proposal by the end of March and submit such proposal for agreement by the Board either under a written consultation process or at the time of the upcoming Board meeting.
