



Partners in Population and Development (PPD)

An Inter-Governmental Organization
Promoting South-South Cooperation

THIRTY-THIRD MEETING: UNAIDS PCB. 17-19 December 2013.

VENUE: Executive Board Room, WHO, Geneva

Agenda item 1.3. Report of the Executive Director. (UNAIDS/PCB (33/13.15. 17 December 2013)

(Response from Partners in Population and Development: Intergovernmental Observer. Delivered by Dr Joe Thomas. Executive Director)

Excellences and honourable members,

The executive director of UNAID presented an over view of the global progress towards “Zero” since last PCB. We acknowledge, welcome and appreciate his presentation. We are particularly glad see that he has mentioned about the celebration in South Africa of Nelson Mandela’s long and remarkable life in his presentation.

We welcome Executive directors’ bold efforts to promote shared responsibility and global solidarity in HIV response. The recently launched China-Africa ministerial forum opened a new era in global health cooperation between China and Africa, is a move towards right direction.

However, we would have liked to see, executive director presenting a clear strategy on how he is going to develop a succinct strategy to promote South- South Collaboration (SSC) in HIV response.

South- South Collaboration (SSC) has been identified as an effective developmental paradigm to address many of the developmental challenges of developing countries.

Considering the differential impact of HIV on developing countries and the emerging capacity of developing countries to produce anti-retroviral medications and prevention skills and knowledge, Partners in Population development (PPD) an intergovernmental partnership of 25 developing countries call up on UNAIDS to develop a comprehensive South-South Collaboration Strategy to address the causes and consequences of HIV epidemic

In August 2008, the Secretary-General issued a policy decision requiring all heads of the United Nations system organizations, specialized agencies, funds and programmes and regional commissions to give priority to promoting South-South cooperation.

This decision, inter alia, requires the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to develop a concise, action oriented, inter-agency collaborative south- south HIV response framework.

In a recent report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of South-South Cooperation for development noted that South-South cooperation is being increasingly mainstreamed in the work and agendas of United Nations development agencies, funds and programmes.

The report concluded that “The work of the United Nations should primarily focus on national capacity development in priority areas through facilitating intra- and interregional knowledge-sharing, engaging countries in difficult development circumstances with those that have acquired higher technological and other capacities in mutually beneficial exchanges.

The United Nations system should support South-South and triangular cooperation primarily from the regional perspective, by linking national centres of excellence, bringing in global normative expertise corresponding to the respective mandates of the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, and exercising political neutrality in responding to local sensitivities, thus promoting sub regional and regional integration processes.”

UNAIDS has a history of supporting South-South Cooperation (SSC) as a strategy for knowledge sharing among its partners; to support regional networks to enhance policy advocacy efforts around common positions; and for providing support to regional intergovernmental and economic integration institutions.

Much earlier in the response to HIV, UNAIDS identified the needs for technical cooperation in Latin America. In Brazil, the International Centre for Technical Cooperation on HIV/AIDS (ICTC) has set-up a network of AIDS service organization and experts in the region who are available to countries for developing and strengthening national responses.

Working through UNAIDS, Brazil was able to promote its own policy and promote in other nations the need for strengthening national policies in areas such as HIV prevention and care, epidemiology, monitoring and evaluation, human rights, and the strengthening of civil society.

In 1999, Zambia’s business community came together to initiate the formation of the Zambia Business Coalition on AIDS (ZBCA). The idea for the ZBCA evolved from the Thailand Business Coalition on AIDS (TBCA) in Asia.

High quality ARV production capacity exists in many developing countries. South-South Cooperation has significantly contributed to the efforts to improve availability and access to HIV/AIDS drugs within and among developing countries.

The UNAIDS Technical Support Facilities (TSF) have been another example of UNAIDS commitment to promote South- South Collaboration. The TSFs have proved to be an important innovation in providing technical support for effective HIV response.

Operating on the cutting edge of technical support, they have helped strengthen South-based capacities and systems in delivering effective programming against AIDS.

Incidentally, this PCB is chaired by India and Partners in Population and Development is also chaired by Mr. Gulam Nabi Azad, the honourable minister for Health and Family welfare of the Government of India, is one of the leading practitioner of South to South Cooperation for HIV response

In this context PPD call up on UNAIDS to further develop a strategy to make SSC with more explicit focus of its own work – cutting across multiple thematic areas.

Partners in Population and Development, along with the Government of Bangladesh is the co-host of the 12th International conference on AIDS in Asia Pacific. We extend all our support to the UNAIDS Executive Director in his efforts to promote South –South Collaboration in HIV response and invite him to present a specific plan of action to promote south – to South Cooperation in HIV response at the next ICAAP in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Thank you for your attention.

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