

India Country Coordination Mechanism Reconstitution for the period 2022-2025

Background:

The Election Committee set up under chairpersonship of David Bridger, Country Director UNAIDS, comprising of members Ms Sujatha Rao, Ex Secy HFW Gol and Father Paul Moojely, Director CARITAS was engaged for recommending civil society and community members and alternate members towards reconstitution of the India Country coordination mechanism membership for a three year period commencing November 2022.

After submission of the full report by the EC, containing recommendations for 20 positions of member and alternate for HIV, TB and Malaria disease constituencies across CSO, KP and PWLD, a representation was forwarded by India CCM Secretariat as received from NCPI +, a PLHIV network vide email dated October 19, 2022 alleging unfairness in the process of selection against the PLWD HIV constituency, that was seconded by the Vice Chair of ICCM vide her email message dated October, 20, 2022.

Chairperson EC called for an emergency meeting of the EC members to discuss the stance and response of the EC to the representation and the final recommendations of the EC.

Process for reconstitution of the ICCM 2022-2025:

The EC members reviewed the steps followed by them and the process adopted towards building consensus for recommending names for the reconstitution of ICCM as summarized below:

- Process for reconstitution of the ICCM for 2022-25, was approved in the 83rd meeting of the I CCM
- Election Committee was constituted as per approval of the Chair, India CCM on February 21, 2022
- Meeting of EC on May 23, 2022 to concur on a common understanding on the the process of reconstitution with regards to the various categories of stakeholders and set specific timelines for completing the reconstitution process The draft Eol was shared with the current ICCM members on June 7, 2022 to gather their feedback
- Eol published on July 14, 22 with the deadline of July 31, 2022 for submission of application
- On the request by applicants who were keen to apply, but were attending the International AIDS Conference, the last date of submission was extended to August 15, 2022 through email consensus from the EC members on July 28, 2022
- Initial list was shared with the EC committee on August 16, 2022 and the EC recommended to
 - Examine the credentials of applicants
 - Authenticity of the application
 - Revert back to applicants to seek further clarity

Meeting on August 18, 2022 to discuss next steps with regards to the Eol application process and the EC recommended to

- Examine each application in detail to identify the supporting information that may be required to consider the application
- Share the initial collation of details of applications by August 24, 2022 with the EC

- Send mail to the applicants by Aug 25, 2022 seeking details with a deadline of August 29, 12 pm
- Applications that are received upto August 29, 2022 will be examined for final short listing and further consideration by the EC
- Progress shared on Aug 23, 2022 with the India CCM during the 85th meeting where Chair EC, Mr David Bridger presented the process, detailed progress and the timeline for finalization of the EC report.
- Mails sent to all applicants with a deadline of 12, pm, August 29, 2022, to provide the necessary details for consideration of their nomination by the EC on August 30, 2022. With consensus of the EC Members, all applications received till 9 am, August 30, 2022, were considered
- A physical meeting of EC was convened on August 30, 2022 meeting with the objectives to
 - To review the suitability of the nominees to be part of the CCM
 - To shortlist the candidates as per the available seats under each constituency as per disease category
 - To recommend the next steps for the finalization of the selection process
- The EC finalized the names for the HIV and TB disease category, but only 1 name was recommended under the CSO category for Malaria as the other applications did not meet the qualifying criteria. EC recommended
 - Reissuing the EoI for the Malaria constituency and also to reach out to NVBDCP to circulate the EoI and also recommend suitable names
- EoI reissued on Sept 8, 2022 with a deadline of Sept 18, 2022 for Malaria category
- EC meeting was held on 21st September 2022 to review and finalise applications for the Malaria category.
- The reconstitution process was followed as laid out in the EoI with no deviations and no representations were received during the entire period from constitution of EC to its submission of final report.

HIV Constituency:

The EC reviewed the exercise conducted by them to assess eligibility and suitability of candidates against CSO, KP and PLWD categories and the summary is given below:

There were a total of 18 candidates that had applied for the various constituencies under the HIV/AIDS category as listed below. Out of this 3 were found ineligible due to their inability to meet the eligibility criteria for CSO as listed below.

The CSOs were selected on the basis of the eligibility criteria as listed in the published EoI

1. Work experience in the selected disease area for at least 5 years
2. Ability to engage and represent their community
3. Registration with NITI Aayog
4. 3 year annual report demonstrating the work of the organization in the specific disease area

For the KP and PLWD category the criteria included

1. Work experience in the selected disease area for at least 5 years
2. Ability to represent their constituency
3. Ability to engage their community from within their selected constituency and provide support documentation to demonstrate support from the networks they represent

Further in the mail sent to the applicants under this category they were requested to share their documentation on their nomination process by their community and network, although some of them had shared support letters from their networks.

In light of non availability of suitable candidates under CSO category of TB, one of the eligible and suitable candidates, Dr Matin Ahmed Khan, who had applied under the CSO category for HIV, but who also demonstrated TB experience, was shifted to TB after obtaining his consent.

The matrix of 18 nominations received for HIV are summarized below: (Include CSO)

KP	Support documentation provided from networks
Pallav Pattankar	INFOSEM
Simran Shaikh	NNTP
Bharati Dey	AINSW
Ayeesha Rai	NNSW
Yadavendra Singh	letters from 49 CBOs
Karon Lama	self nominated
PLWD	
Celina D'Costa	GAHR
Praveen Sharma	GAHR
Amit Kumar Gussain	UKNP+ and NCPI+
S Nagarjuna	Self Nominated
Pratik Raval	Self Nominated
CSOs	
Mr Vijay Nair , Udaan Trust	Met all CSO criteria and also provided letters from 6 PLHIV network including NCPI+
Ms T Mercy Annapoorani, Positive Women.s Network	Met all CSO criteria, also a previous I CCM member from 2015-18 and currently an OC member
R Arul Jothi, (AMK)	Did not provide NITI Aayog registration certificate
Priyam Mukherjee, Elmhirst Institute of Community Studies	Did not provide NITI Aayog registration certificate
Beena Raj, Saksham Mahila Samiti	Did not provide NITI Aayog registration certificate
Dr Matin Ahmed Khan, AMAN	Moved to the TB disease category

- The selection process followed by the EC was in adherence with the guidelines as detailed in the CCM ToR and EOI.
- It was additionally noted that one of the applicants from among the 5 applications under the CSO category also submitted support letter from 6 positive networks including NCPI+.
- The applicants under the KP category submitted documentation on their process of selection by their networks such as INFOSEM, NNTP, NNSW and AINSW.
- Under the PLWD category, there were 5 applications of which 2 individuals submitted documentation of support from the GAHR network, 1 individual submitted support letters from NCPI + and UKNP+ and 2 individuals were self nominated

- No candidate has been recommended by the EC against any position in the HIV constituency without demonstrating support from a network for KP and PLWD categories.
- It was also noted that during the process of reconstitution of ICCM in 2018, requests had been received from some of the constituencies for support to hold their election process through physical meetings, where EC members were invited to be present and interact with the community members. This was done through two separate physical meetings for AINSW and NNSW; and NCPI+ and PWN. The constituencies however conducted their own election process, and it was not done by EC on their behalf

In light of no such requests being received during the entire proceedings of EC and that there were adequate nominations received which were supported by networks for both KP and PLWD, the EC went ahead to objectively assess suitability of candidature against the selection criteria.

Summary:

In light of the above, the EC reiterates that there was no unfairness in the process followed and the proceedings of the Election Committee conducted towards defining a process, finalization of AEOL, determining eligibility and suitability of candidates and coming up with final recommendations for 18 of the 20 positions of member and alternate members for civil society and community seats of India CCM and stands by its original recommendations.

It also did not find any particular instance of deviation from set process or unfairness in the process adopted especially while making recommendations for PLWD category for HIV constituency.