

1st Meeting of the Election Committee of India CCM

21st May 2018, MoHFW, Nirman Bhawan

India Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) is to be reconstituted in year 2018 for a three year term. An Election Committee was constituted with approval of Secretary (HFW)/ Chair, India CCM to guide and oversee election process for reconstitution of India CCM. Following members of the Election Committee held their 1st meeting on 21st May, 2018 at 3.30 PM in Room no. 243-A, MoHFW, Nirman Bhawan:

1. Swami Shantatmananda, CCM member, Ramakrishna Mission
2. Dr. Ravi Verma, Ex-CCM member, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
3. Ms. Nandini Kapoor, Senior Program Advisor, UNAIDS (Representing Mr. Bilali Camara, Country Director, UNAIDS)
4. Dr. K. S. Sachdeva, DDG/ India CCM Focal Point

At the outset, India CCM Secretariat staff- CCM Coordinator and Programme Officer apprised the Election Committee on the Global Fund requirements for CCM membership, CCM composition as per Terms of Reference (ToR) of India CCM and report of reconstitution of India CCM for 2015-2018 term.

ToRs of India CCM specify that there shall be 26 members in India CCM with the following representation from various constituencies:

- Government: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (5), Other Union Ministries and Governments of States and Union Territories (3): 8
- Civil society organizations (including NGO/CBO/faith-based organizations) including 2 from HIV/AIDS and 1 each from TB and Malaria sectors (2) : 4
- Key affected populations : 3
- People living with or previously living with HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria: 3
- Private sector: 2
- Academic/ educational/research institutions: 2
- Bilateral development partners: 2
- Multilateral development partners: 2

As per ToRs, India-CCM members representing each sector/constituency shall be chosen by that sector and the process of selection shall be well documented. The Global Fund guidelines also emphasize the same. This requirement also applies to all non-government members including People living with disease (HIV/Malaria/TB)/or People affected by disease/ or representing key affected populations, but not to multilateral and bilateral partners.

The committee enquired about the process of CCM reconstitution adopted during last term 2015-2018. It was explained that s(e)lection of CCM members was done by their own sector/constituency in accordance to ToRs of India CCM. Government and Academic/research organization positions were nominated by Secretary (HFW) Chair, India CCM. Bilateral and multilateral partners also adopted their own selected process and shared the documented evidence. For HIV constituency seats, a meeting of caucus group representing stakeholders from CSO/KAP/PLHIV networks or groups was organized to orient them on CCM membership protocols. Subsequently, Caucus group members facilitated s(e)lection of representative from their respective constituencies. For Malaria and Tuberculosis due to unavailability of active KAP or PLWD networks like HIV sector, Civil society organizations working in the area of Malaria and TB occupied KAP/PLWD position in the CCM.

The Election Committed discussed that their mandate is to oversee elections of civil society organizations (4 seats), Key affected populations (3 seats) and Persons affected with diseases(3 seats) since selection processes of government constituency, bi/multilateral development partners and private sector members are clear and well defined. The committee opined that during last term 2015-2018, CCM election for CSO/KAP/PLWD seats was undertaken in a fair manner. Similar processes may be adopted for upcoming election with focus on involvement of more networks/groups working for HIV and for TB and Malaria. Civil Society Organizations working for affected communities may be engaged and considered for KAP/PLWD positions.

Election Committee made following recommendations with respect to CSO/KAP/PLWD elections of India CCM for the upcoming term (2018-2021):

1. India CCM Secretariat to hold meetings of caucus group for HIV and CSOs working for Malaria and TB affected populations to orient them on CCM reconstitution/election guidelines. Subsequently, these groups/networks may conduct elections within their own constituency to select members for CCM. UNAIDS was requested to support India CCM secretariat in facilitating these meetings. Ms. Nandini Kapoor agreed and asked India CCM secretariat to send a formal request to UNAIDS.
2. To disseminate CCM reconstitution information widely and to enhance involvement of more CSO/PLWD/KAP networks or groups related to HIV/TB/Malaria in the election process, committee suggested putting up advertisement on CCM/MoHFW/NACO/CTD and NVBDCP websites inviting expression of interest from CSO/KAP/PLWD for CCM membership.
3. All members interested for CCM membership shall provide their letter of intent. India CCM secretariat to develop an eligibility criteria format seeking intent for membership,

experience in the sector and engagement with PR/SRs under the Global Fund etc from interested candidates.

4. Based on the response from network meetings and advertisement, steps for proceeding further may be discussed by the committee.
5. Committee suggested strengthening the constituency engagement in CCM elections as well as in its functioning. To ensure this, members must be encouraged to develop constituency engagement /communication plan in consultation with their constituencies upon their selection.