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**Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Central Supervisory Board  
held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2005**  
(Constituted under the Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994)

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1. The list of participants is Annexed.

2. Shri Amarjeet Sinha, Director, Welcomed the participants and sought permission from the Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare (HFM) to take up agenda items for discussion. First of all, a presentation on the implementation of the PNDT Act in the country based on the reports received from the States/UTs and the reports of National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) was made by Director (PNDT). Thereafter, other agenda items were taken up for discussion. The important decisions taken based on the discussions have been shown under the discussions on respective agenda items as given below:-

3. *Agenda Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Central Supervisory Board (CSB) held on 30.3.2005.*

The minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CSB held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2005, circulated earlier to the members for their perusal were confirmed by the Board.

4. *Agenda Item No. 2: Action Taken Report on the Decision taken / Recommendations made in the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Central Supervisory Board held on 30.3.2005.*

The members noted the Action Taken on various decision / recommendations of the last meeting. The related items on which action was to be taken as per the decision / recommendations of 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of CSB and further decisions taken regarding the same are as follows:

4.1 *Sensitization of Appropriate Authorities and Private Practitioners*

It was informed to the CSB that the National Level Review Meeting with State Secretaries and Appropriate Authorities is proposed to be held in November, 2005. For sensitization of District Appropriate Authorities, HFM directed to organize the sensitization workshops in concerned states/regions. It was informed to CSB that the workshops will also be held in districts which have the worst Child Sex Ratio by involving District Collectors and NGOs. In view of non-receipt of the revised proposal from the Indian Medical Association for sensitizing medical community, it was decided that the proposals received from IRIA and FOGSI may be processed.

4.2 *Registration of MRI/CT Scan clinics*

The CSB was informed that as per the technical opinion given by the DGHS and the legal opinion given on it by the Ministry of Law, necessary clarifications for registration of MRI/CT Scan clinics under the PC & PNDT Act were being issued to the States / UTs. However, it was decided that the matter may be reexamined in the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Law to keep MRI/CT Scan clinics out of the purview of PC & PNDT Act.

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#### 4.3 National Surveillance Cell

It was informed to the CSB that the constitution of the National Surveillance Cell is under active consideration and UNFPA has agreed to support it financially. The cell will be of interdisciplinary nature with medical, police, law and social science specialists. It would provide necessary support and training to the Appropriate Authorities and will not function as a policing agency for taking action directly. It was decided that the cell be constituted at the earliest.

#### 4.4 Court Cases filed in respect of "Communication of Sex of the Foetus".

It was decided that wider publicity might be given to the cases that have been filed against the clinics for communicating the sex of the foetus. This will expose the violators among the public and among the medicine fraternity. The information may also be put on the website of the Ministry of Health and Family welfare for wider publicity.

#### 5. Agenda Item No. 3 & 4: PC&PNDT Act - Implementation Status and reports of National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC).

Director (PNDT) made a presentation on status and implementation of PC & PNDT Act in the country, based on the reports received from State/UTs. The presentation also covered main points emerging from the reports of the National Inspection and Monitoring Committee. Following decisions were taken based on the presentation:

- i) All State/ UT governments may be asked to renew the registration of clinics that will be due in the coming period. The state/ UT governments may take action to inform the doctors / clinics about the renewal of registration in print / electronic media.
- ii) The utility of keeping and getting information from the clinics in Form F /G was discussed (It was informed to CSB that an NGO has been entrusted with the task of carrying out audit of the ultrasound clinics in Delhi by using the reports submitted by them. HFM desired that such procedure be replicated in other states after the results of Delhi analysis are out. It was decided that the findings of the study may be placed in the next meeting of the CSB.) The importance of filling up the requisite forms F & G under the Act by the clinics was reiterated (A computer software for data entry and report generation from the information submitted in Form F may be developed.)
- iii) Information on registration of mobile ultrasound machines be collected from the States/UTs.
- iv) It was decided that consolidated guidelines for using the registration money available with the Appropriate Authorities may be issued to the States /UTs.
- v) There was also a discussion that second trimester MTPs should be banned. However, the general consensus was that the MTPs (second trimester etc) be kept outside the purview of PNDT Act as the right of woman to have abortion is uniform during the entire period of pregnancy.
- vi) It was decided to organize more frequent visits of NIMC as it acts as an important tool for monitoring the implementation of the Act at the field level. Mrs. Ranjana Kumari, Director, Center for Social Research, recommended to give special

authority to monitoring teams so as to empower them to take action on the violators of the act. 2

**6. Agenda Item No. 5: Involvement of District Magistrate/District Collector**

It was proposed that District Magistrate/District Collectors may be involved in implementation of the act at district level to give it the needed acceleration at ground level. Periodical meetings may be held by DMs/DCs with district AAs and also with Advisory Committee, if any, to review the scenario of the sex ratio at district level and implementation of the Act. It would also help in arranging local IEC activities for propagation of the cause.

**7. Agenda Item No. 6: Any other item with the permission of the Chair**

7.1 Dr. Ranjana Kumari informed the Hon'ble HFM that she would send a road map for effective implementation of the PC & PNDDT Act in the country.

7.2 HFM desired that a Website may exclusively be devoted for PNDDT Division where information / activities undertaken may be placed for the use of clinics / general public. Provision may be kept in this Website to register complaints about the clinics indulging in sex selection. An advertisement about PNDDT issues and Website may be given in print media for public information. 12 NIG ✓

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

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