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PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

Thirteenth meeting
Lisbon, 11-12 December 2002

Provisional agenda item 3:

Partnership agreement between UNAIDS and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Executive summary

This paper is prepared in response to the decision of the Programme Coordinating Board at its 12th meeting that UNAIDS should develop a partnership agreement with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, for consideration at the 13th meeting. The paper outlines the process of developing the agreement, sets out the principles underlying the discussions and refers to the areas of collaboration that are being considered.

ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS MEETING

The Programme Coordinating Board is asked to note progress towards developing this agreement, the principles on which the agreement will be based, and the likely areas of cooperation.

Partnership Agreement between UNAIDS and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Background

1. At its 12th meeting in Geneva in May 2002, the PCB agreed that UNAIDS and the Global Fund should “work in consultation to develop, for consideration by the PCB at its next meeting, a partnership agreement that would set out areas of complementary activity and provide a sound foundation for a continuing strong, mutually reinforcing relationship. This agreement, which would include a resource mobilization strategy, would clarify their respective roles, indicate the cost implications for UNAIDS, and demonstrate effective synergies.”
2. It was subsequently decided to prepare as a separate document the resource analysis and mobilization strategy. This paper is presented for consideration at this meeting of the PCB.

Progress with Agreement

3. Following the May PCB meeting, the UNAIDS Secretariat pursued discussions on the form and substance of a partnership agreement with the Global Fund’s interim and permanent Secretariat and in consultation with Cosponsors. A draft Partnership Agreement was shared with UNAIDS Cosponsors in September, and presented for discussion at the Committee of Cosponsor Organizations meeting in Washington on 15–16 October.
4. While UNAIDS and the Global Fund have continued to work in close collaboration at global and country levels, and to build up a strong partnership, the pressures on the Fund as the Secretariat staff were being appointed, as well as the intense efforts needed to achieve the first Global Fund disbursements, have meant that it has not yet been possible for UNAIDS and the Fund to negotiate the terms of a formal agreement. It is expected that progress will be made in developing and drafting the Partnership Agreement over the next few weeks, and that a proposed agreement may be ready for presentation as a conference room paper at the PCB meeting.

The Partnership Agreement

5. The purpose of the agreement is to formalize the collaborative and complementary relationship between UNAIDS (Secretariat and Cosponsors) and the Global Fund, to outline a framework for cooperation in particular areas, and to reflect the establishment of the Fund as a financing institution that provides a new opportunity to scale up action against HIV/AIDS and that relies on existing international mechanisms to support its core processes.
6. The following underlying principles have been agreed by the Cosponsors and are being negotiated with the Fund Secretariat:

- UNAIDS to be the key provider of strategic leadership, knowledge, policy advice and technical expertise on HIV/AIDS to support the Global Fund in all its operations.
 - UNAIDS to use its extensive partnership network to promote the goals and principles of the Global Fund.
 - UNAIDS and the Global Fund to work in a complementary way to support mutual goals and objectives and to avoid duplication of effort.
 - UNAIDS and the Global Fund to respect the principles of national ownership and country leadership and support the goals of national capacity-building and scaling up of country-level responses to HIV/AIDS.
 - The key principles of independence, reciprocity, transparency and flexibility will be respected.
7. The areas of cooperation identified in the agreement will relate to action at both the global and country levels, and will cover:
- **strategic analysis and policy advice**, based on UNAIDS' role as the prime source of advice and data on the HIV/AIDS epidemic, on country situations and on effective interventions;
 - the **technical support throughout the proposal cycle** provided by UNAIDS (including advice on needs, strategies and programmes, support for countries in developing and implementing proposals, support for Country Coordinating Mechanisms and facilitation of the technical review process);
 - the **monitoring and evaluation** framework for the Fund, at country level and globally; and
 - **resource mobilization and advocacy**, with UNAIDS and the Global Fund working in a complementary way to achieve the commitment and level of resources needed to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
8. The agreement will provide a framework for ongoing collaboration in these areas and formalize current ad hoc cooperation. The agreement will also include a mechanism for monitoring and assessing the collaboration.
9. The PCB is requested to note the progress made in developing a Partnership Agreement with the Global Fund and to review the principles and areas of cooperation.