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19th Meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board
Lusaka, Zambia,
6–8 December 2006

Provisional agenda item 4.2:

Review of UNAIDS tasks

Background

Recommendation 7.13 of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board's 18th meeting (Geneva, 27-28 June, 2006) requested UNAIDS to:

“develop for review by the Programme Coordinating Board at its December 2006 thematic meeting a 2007-2010 framework for the Joint Programme's support to countries' efforts to implement fully the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, taking into account the recommendations made by UNAIDS in its assessment on scaling up HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.”

Additionally, recommendation 7.14 requested that:

“the UNAIDS Secretariat, in developing the framework referred to in decision 7.13, identify all tasks requiring UNAIDS action originating from the Programme Coordinating Board and to present to the 19th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board recommendations, as appropriate, for the retirement and/or consolidation of tasks.”

This document presents the main findings of a review conducted in response to the above recommendation¹.

Scope of the review

It should be noted that, as well as the Programme Coordinating Board, UNAIDS receives tasks from other UN bodies, such as the UN General Assembly, relevant to its role as a member of the UN system. In order to provide the most complete picture possible of the tasks requiring UNAIDS' action, decisions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Security Council were included under the scope of the review, together with decisions adopted by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board. The review identified a high degree of complementarity and consistency across the decisions adopted by these bodies.

The review was limited to the decisions adopted by the Programme Coordinating Board after the Five-year Evaluation of UNAIDS (13th meeting, December 2002), and by UNGA, ECOSOC and the Security Council after the General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (June 2001), as on both occasions a review of outstanding tasks was conducted and new plans drawn.

Key findings of the review

The review focused on requests for action originating from decisions of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board or other relevant bodies (General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and Security Council), which generate tasks to be implemented by UNAIDS or the Secretariat. Further, only active tasks were considered, that is tasks based on decisions calling for on-going efforts or involving actions that are yet to be completed.

¹ This document is the summary of a broad analysis. A detailed list of the Board decisions reviewed and a list of mandates originating from UN principal bodies decisions can be found at the link <http://www.unaids.org/en/AboutUNAIDS/Governance/ProgrammeCoordinatingBoard.asp>.

The following sections highlight:

- Five guiding principles, which have been repeatedly reaffirmed as fundamental by the Programme Coordinating Board, and provide the context of all future Board decisions regarding UNAIDS' work;
- Tasks that no longer address core priorities of UNAIDS or have been overtaken by successive developments and therefore should be retired;
- A consolidation of active tasks into broad functions clustered under the strategic directions of the 2007-2010 strategic framework for UNAIDS' support to countries' efforts to move towards universal access;
- A consolidation of tasks originating from decisions of UN principal bodies identified through the UN Secretariat electronic registry of UN mandates.

Guiding principles

The review process identified a number of principles that cut across the programmatic areas of UNAIDS and have been repeatedly reaffirmed as fundamental by the Programme Coordinating Board. These direct UNAIDS to ensure that all aspects of its work are:

- aligned to national priorities;
- based on the meaningful involvement of civil society and people living with HIV;
- human rights-based and gender-sensitive;
- based on the best available scientific evidence and technical knowledge;
- promoting comprehensive responses to AIDS that integrate prevention, treatment, care and support.

All Programme Coordinating Board decisions, recommendations and conclusions should be considered as grounded in these principles even when they are not explicitly mentioned.

Tasks for retirement

During the review, it was found that some decisions have been overtaken by successive developments and that a number – although limited – of active tasks no longer address core priorities of UNAIDS. These tasks, which will be retired, include:

- *World AIDS Campaign (WAC)*. UNAIDS has repositioned the World AIDS Campaign to be civil society-led and, while remaining a partner of the Campaign will need to reassess the nature of its support.
- *Resource tracking*. Due to increased capacity/comparative advantage of other data collection experts under the umbrella of the UNAIDS Resource Tracking Consortium the UNFPA/UNAIDS/NIDI Resource Flows Project has been discontinued.
- *Expanded UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS*. This mechanism has now evolved into partnership forums.
- *UN System Implementation Support Plan (UN-ISP)*. This activity has been discontinued
- *UN System Strategic Framework on AIDS (UNSSF)*. This activity has been discontinued.

It should also be noted that UNAIDS regularly reviews its roles, functions and reprioritizes them on the basis of its strategic goals. For instance, as a result of the UNAIDS Technical Support Division of Labour, the UNAIDS Secretariat was able to hand over the lead role on activities in support of national strategic planning on AIDS to the World Bank and UNDP, and work on HIV and sex work to UNFPA.

The workplanning exercise for 2007 will provide the opportunity for a further prioritization of activities in light of the 2007-2010 strategic framework for UNAIDS' support to countries' efforts to move towards universal access.

Consolidated tasks

Analogous or related tasks can be consolidated into broad functions. This section presents the broad functions emerging from the consolidation of active tasks requiring UNAIDS action.

As has been noted the review was carried out as part of the preparation of the "2007-2010 Framework for UNAIDS' support to countries' efforts to move towards universal access".

In order, therefore, to highlight the links between the two documents and to enable the most effective input into the Framework preparation process, the tasks have been consolidated around the Framework's Strategic Directions.

2007-2010 Framework Strategic Direction:

Guiding the global agenda, increasing involvement and monitoring progress

Key functions mandated by the Programme Coordinating Board and other relevant bodies

- Facilitating the development of a long-term approach for the global AIDS response and leading in the development of evidence-informed and rights-based policies also by supporting AIDS research and facilitating the documentation of best practices.
- Promoting leadership in strategic areas of the global response to AIDS and building partnerships with key actors such as governments, civil society (especially people living with HIV), the private sector and international institutions (including financial institutions).
- Supporting efforts to increase financial resources available to AIDS responses through: i) the mobilization of additional resources; ii) the strengthening of existing financial mechanisms and iii) the development of innovative sources of funding.
- Assisting efforts to monitor and report on progress towards universal access national targets, and leading resource tracking efforts, in conjunction with relevant global, regional and national partners.

2007-2010 Framework Strategic Direction:

Technical support and capacity building for "making the money work" and universal access

Key functions mandated by the Programme Coordinating Board and other relevant bodies:

- Coordinating support to countries' scaling-up of comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support.
- Undertaking specific actions to support countries' scaling-up of national programmes through activities at various levels, including: advocacy; partnership building and social mobilization; capacity strengthening; direct delivery and mobilization of technical assistance.
- Ensuring that technical service delivery and capacity building activities in support of national responses are responsive to the needs identified by the UNAIDS' universal access assessment.

2007-2010 Framework Strategic Direction:

Human rights, gender and reduced vulnerability of most-at-risk populations

Key functions mandated by the Programme Coordinating Board and other relevant bodies:

- Promoting rights-based and gender-sensitive responses to AIDS capable to address the needs of most at-risk populations including men who have sex with men, injecting and other drug users, sex workers, people living in poverty, prisoners, migrant labourers, people in conflict and post-conflict situations, and refugees and internally displaced persons
- Prioritizing support to vulnerable communities and groups in budgeting as well as programme implementation, including action specifically related to women and AIDS and action specifically related to children, young people and AIDS.
- Supporting interventions addressing AIDS in the context of security and stability as well as effective action on AIDS in the context of humanitarian emergencies.

2007-2010 Framework Strategic Direction:

Re-emphasizing HIV prevention alongside treatment, care and support

Key functions mandated by the Programme Coordinating Board and other relevant bodies

- Advocating for, and providing support to, comprehensive responses based on a continuum of measures including prevention, treatment, care and support.
- Promoting the intensification of HIV prevention as part of a comprehensive response to AIDS in line with the policy position paper: "Intensifying HIV prevention.

2007-2010 Framework Strategic Direction:

Strengthening harmonization and alignment to national priorities

Key functions mandated by the Programme Coordinating Board and other relevant bodies:

- Assisting national efforts to coordinate AIDS responses by building political support as well as institutional capacity for the implementation of the "Three Ones" principles in line with the Global Task Team recommendations.
- Ensuring the coherence and effectiveness of UN action on AIDS at national and regional level, also through the implementation of the UNAIDS Technical Support Division of Labour and the operationalization of Joint UN teams and programmes on AIDS.
- Continuously improving the operations of coordination mechanisms, such as the UNAIDS Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations and the Unified Budget and Workplan.

Analysis of the United Nations mandate² registry

In response to requests from several Member States, the UN Secretariat has compiled an electronic inventory of mandates originating from the resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the Security Council.

A search for mandates that have UNAIDS as one of the implementing entities yielded 85 entries. A large number of these, however, overlap or represent recurrent mandates – that is requests for recurrent action (e.g. regular annual reporting), or action to be undertaken on a continuous basis (e.g. tracking progress in a certain field). Also it should be noted that several mandates refer to UNAIDS' position as a member of the UN system and do not directly refer to the response to the epidemic.

Keeping this in mind, UNAIDS' mandates originating from resolutions of UN principal bodies can be consolidated as follows:

- Supporting the implementation of commitments made at the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (2001) and at the 2006 High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, and assisting with tracking progress towards their fulfillment;
- Supporting the implementation of AIDS-related commitments made at other major UN conferences and summits (e.g. International Conference on Population and Development, 2000 Millennium Summit and 2005 World Summit), and providing inputs to facilitate reporting under their follow-up mechanisms;
- Providing AIDS-related inputs to reporting on the status of major UN conventions (e.g. Convention on the Rights of the Child)
- Facilitating the integration of UN work on AIDS with efforts in other, related areas (e.g. promotion and protection of children's rights; development of Africa; human rights education; eradication of poverty; international peacekeeping; women, peace and security)
- Supporting efforts aimed at increasing the coherence of UN operations, also through support to the Resident Coordinator system and UN thematic groups
- Providing targeted assistance to specific countries or regions;
- Regular reporting to ECOSOC as called for in the resolution establishing UNAIDS.

² The definition of mandate given in the UN Secretariat mandate registry is very similar to the notion of task utilized in this paper.

Requested action

The Programme Coordinating Board is requested to:

- Reaffirm the five guiding principles as intrinsic in all Programme Coordinating Board recommendations, decisions and conclusions, and include them as a preamble to all sets of future Programme Coordinating Board decisions, recommendations and conclusions;
- Request the Drafting Group to be mindful of the intrinsic nature of the guiding principles in its production of concrete, actionable and time-bound decisions, recommendations and conclusions;
- Endorse the list of active tasks proposed for retirement;
- Take note of the consolidation of active tasks into broad functions clustered under the strategic directions of the 2007-2010 strategic framework for UNAIDS' support to countries' efforts to move towards universal access;
- Take note of the consolidation of mandates originating from decisions of UN principal bodies.

