

Terms of Reference

UNAIDS PCB Reference group on oversight of the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Task Team Independent Assessment in support of national AIDS Responses (“GTT Oversight Reference Group”)

I. Background to the GTT Independent Assessment

1. In June 2006, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board urged all partners to fully respect their commitments to the “Three Ones” and the Global Task Team Recommendations. (Further background details on the GTT process can be found in the Annex). The PCB decided to undertake an independent assessment of Global Task Team implementation at country level which would report to the Programme Coordinating Board in December 2006. The PCB Bureau constituted a GTT Assessment Reference Group, which consists of representation from Sweden (chair), Thailand, Netherlands, Kenya, US, UK, UNDP (Co-sponsor representation) and YouAct (Portugal, NGO Representative). The GTT Assessment Reference Group oversaw the Assessment process, including the choice of Consultants, and received the draft and final reports.

2. The report “An independent assessment of progress on the implementation of the global task team recommendations in support of national aids responses”, prepared by HLSP was presented to the 20th PCB meeting in June 2007¹. (The Recommendations of this report are attached in annex 2). The UNAIDS secretariat has drafted a response that has been finalized by the Committee of Cosponsor Organizations (CCO) in its meeting in October 2007. The final version is attached in annex 3 and includes decisions on how the recommendations from the independent GTT review will be taken forward, under the oversight of the GTT reference group.

3. The 20th PCB recognized that the assessment had taken place in an early stage of GTT implementation, but stated it was useful to take stock and identify the areas for improvement. The PCB endorsed the recommendations as well as the framework for follow-up, and took the following decisions:

Agenda item 4.3: Report of the Global Task Team Independent Assessment

13.1 Adopts the recommendations contained in the Report of the Global Task Team Independent Assessment (document UNAIDS/PCB(20)/07.9) and acknowledges their cost implications as outlined in the annex to the report;

13.2 Requests the UNAIDS family to take forward its management response to the recommendations in 13.1; and

13.3 Requests the Programme Coordinating Board Bureau to establish a reference group for oversight and² implementation of the recommendations in 13.1.

¹ Report of the independent assessment of progress on the implementation of the global task team recommendations in support of national aids responses, HLSP, Kathy Attawell and Clare Dickinson, 11 May 2007 http://data.unaids.org/pub/ExternalDocument/2007/hlsp_gtt_assessment_item4_3_en.pdf

² The PCB Bureau meeting on 23 August 2007 understood that this should read “...oversight of the implementation...”

The discussion of this item at the 20th PCB also noted the following, which are relevant to the execution of the Oversight Reference Group duties³:

On accountability, delegates agreed that the donor community would report to the PCB on harmonization progress. One constituency urged that the accountability of the Resident Coordinators for coordination of the UN at country level and the development of joint plans be observed. Overall, caution was expressed that at the country level, accountability of the process should be driven by national actors, with the involvement of civil society, and not by technical agencies.

Also, with relation to the UNAIDS response to the recommendations of the GTT Independent assessment the 20th PCB recorded:

The Cosponsors were pleased to report that actions had already been taken in a number of the areas identified in the report, for instance the revision of the terms of reference of the GIST and the UBW based on the division of labour. They supported the need for improved accountability for all partners, and for themselves would establish a simple mechanism consistent with UN structures. Cosponsoring agencies would also report to their own governing bodies on progress made in terms of implementing the GTT Recommendations.

4. These Terms of Reference have been developed to fulfill this recommendation to ensure PCB oversight and support to the implementation of the GTT recommendations and outline the objectives, membership, operation and support for the reference group that will carry out these functions.

II. Objectives for the GTT Reference Group

5. The GTT reference group will oversee the implementation of necessary actions following the recommendations of the Independent Assessment presented to the 20th PCB meeting – in particular the actions highlighted in the UNAIDS Response to be ratified at the Global Coordinators/Committee of Cosponsoring Organisations meeting of October 2007 (see attached). This oversight role includes both where the responsibility lies with UNAIDS or with organisations external to UNAIDS (e.g. bilateral donors). The Reference Group will oversee the reporting requirements of all identified relevant stakeholders, (as identified in the GTT Independent Assessment Report) to the PCB on their GTT progress without duplicating existing mechanisms.

6. The reference group will oversee that actions are implemented in a coherent and effective way, in line with PCB decisions relating to the GTT independent assessment as well as other decisions, in particular those relating to UN reform.

7. Reports by the relevant UN and non-UN actors identified in the Independent Assessment report (such as bilateral donors the GFATM, and other partners) as important to the implementation of the GTT recommendations, will be solicited by the GTT Oversight Reference Group, and consolidated by UNAIDS Secretariat, and presented to the Reference Group, who will review progress and seek to improve implementation.

³ http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2007/pcb_20_final_report_edited_en.pdf

III. Membership of the GTT reference group

8. The GTT Oversight Reference Group will be constituted by and report to the PCB Bureau, and through the PCB Bureau to the PCB itself. The PCB Bureau may, in consultation with the GTT Oversight Reference Group, propose to the PCB to dissolve the Reference Group at a time when it is not longer deemed an appropriate instrument, but it is envisaged that the life of the group would not go beyond the PCB meeting at the end of 2008 and end with the presentation of the report of the follow up independent assessment proposed for end 2008.

9. The Reference Group should comprise a balance of partner countries, donors, UNAIDS Cosponsors (1) and Civil Society (1). The selected institutions/countries are:

- Partner Countries –Thailand (Chair), Senegal, South Africa, Lesotho, Kenya
- Bilateral Donors – France, Japan, Monaco, Norway, USA
- UNAIDS Cosponsors – WHO
- Civil Society – International HIV/AIDS Alliance

UNAIDS Secretariat will participate to support the Reference Group in its functioning (see para. 11).

IV. Organisation and operational procedures of the GTT Oversight Reference Group

10. Most of the Reference Group's work will be conducted by email and teleconference wherever possible. The group will meet every 3 months, with interim consultation by e-mail. At the decision of the Chair, occasional face-to-face meetings may be called where critical issues are to be discussed – however this should not be more than twice per year.

11. UNAIDS secretariat will provide secretariat support for the Reference Group. This will include support for organising meetings, providing teleconference facilities, developing agenda and minutes of meetings, and related tasks. This support will be provided by CER and AED Divisions.

12. The GTT Oversight Reference Group will design effective mechanisms to ensure accountability and successful implementation of the recommendations of the GTT Independent Assessment, including identifying and following through on reporting requirements, analysis and presentation of results to the PCB. The Reference Group will execute its duties in order to enhance and strengthen the role of the secretariat in collecting information on and pressing for progress.

13. Indicative Timeline

Task	Timescale
GTT Oversight Reference Group to agree membership and ToRs	End September 2007/ End November 2007
UNAIDS CCO to finalise response to the Independent Assessment Recommendations, and share with Reference Group	End October 2007
Oversight Reference group to meet to agree modalities of soliciting feedback from key partners including an action monitoring table based on the "UNAIDS response",	By December 2007
Reference Group to agree format and content of report to the 23 rd PCB in 2008.	By end March 2008
Secretariat to assist in collating feedback from UNAIDS response, and other reports solicited by the reference group, for presentation to 23 rd PCB	By end June 2008.

Annex 1: Further background to the GTT

1. In its review of the Global AIDS response the High-Level Meeting “Making the Money Work: The Three Ones in Action” held in London on March 9, 2005, UNAIDS took immediate action on the commitments made in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness⁴ and established the *Global Task Team on improving AIDS Co-ordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors (GTT)*.

2. Working within the framework of the Three Ones principles, the Global Task Team (GTT) was to – within 80 days – develop bold and actionable recommendations on:

- Options for further coordination, particularly within the multilateral system, to resolve areas of duplication and gap in the global response:
- How the multilateral system can streamline, simplify and further harmonize AIDS procedures and practices with a view to improving the effectiveness of country-led responses and reducing the burden placed on the managerial and technical capacity of countries.

3. The Global Task Team report was launched in June 2005. The recommendations focused mainly on the multilateral system and, amongst others, emphasized the need for significantly scaling up technical support provision to the country level. The recommendations of the Global Task Team would also guide the country level implementation of the Three Ones principles. The Global Task Team recommendations are divided into the following four main areas:

- A. Empowering national leadership and ownership
- B. Alignment and harmonization
- C. Reform for a more effective multilateral response
- D. Accountability and oversight

4. The final GTT recommendations were endorsed by the 17th UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board at its meeting from 27-29 June 2005 and have subsequently been endorsed by the boards of all UNAIDS Cosponsoring agencies, the Global Fund Board and in the September 2005 UN World Summit Outcome Document.

Annex 2: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GTT INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT (May 2007)

Annex 3: GTT Independent Assessment - *UNAIDS response and follow-up plan* (approved October 2007)

(see www.unaids.org)

⁴ The Paris Declaration made a specific reference to HIV/AIDS through a commitment “to taking concrete and effective action to address the remaining challenges, including: ... (iv) insufficient integration of global programmes and initiatives into partners countries’ broader development agendas, including in critical areas such as HIV/AIDS” <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/11/41/34428351.pdf>