

GTT Independent Assessment

UNAIDS response and follow-up plan

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1. Introduction

We welcome this report as it contains a clear analysis of the current situation, and clear advice for us all. We commend the GTT Assessment Reference Group and the consultants HLSP for ensuring the independence and rigour of the assessment within a short time frame.

We also welcome the set of recommendations in the Independent Assessment that contains actions for the multilateral institutions as well as the bilateral donors. The recommendations are structured under seven critical areas to ensure more effective GTT implementation: (i) division of labour; (ii) joint teams and joint programmes of support; (iii) technical support mechanisms; (iv) strengthening accountability mechanisms; (v) resources; (vi) GTT and UN reform; (vii) harmonization and alignment. Following from the Board's endorsement of the report and recommendations and its request for the UNAIDS family to take forward its response to the recommendations, the UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors have finalised this response and follow up plan.

While we do not need a new “action plan” for this work—as we already have that in the form of the Global Task Team report and its recommendations from June 2005—we are committed to addressing the reasons why progress has been slow in some areas. This assessment gives us the direction for doing that.

To take this assessment forward there are clearly actions required from all key stakeholders: UN, bilateral partners, funds and partner countries. We have estimated the possible extra costs for responding to these recommendations, and also considered the UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsor role in turning the recommendations into reality.

We agree with partners that all the recommendations under the seven key areas are feasible and can — and should — be implemented. The follow-up actions are assigned to different agencies and entities, and some of the recommendations will take longer to implement than others. We outline below a proposed time-scale that would make the recommendations' adoption and implementation more practical.

2. Follow-up to the Independent Assessment

UNAIDS commits to reporting back to the PCB on progress in implementing the recommendations of the independent assessment. In addition we will use the UNAIDS web site to present progress reports and documents constituting evidence of progress.

Given that some of the actions needed are from partners outside the UN system, we welcome the establishment of the GTT Oversight Reference Group to provide representative oversight of the actions required by the Independent Assessment, and to track the follow-up reporting needs.

UNAIDS Secretariat senior management will ensure that the secretariat at country, regional and global level will work with Cosponsors to advocate and monitor action on the recommendations and will ensure that Global Task Team implementation remains a top UNAIDS priority.

Cosponsors have committed to reporting on progress in implementing the recommendations of the independent assessment in addition to the original recommendations of the Global Task Team, to the PCB through the secretariat, as well as to their forthcoming boards.

3. Plan for follow-up on recommendations

In this final section, UNAIDS presents the suggested actions and the recommendations they correspond to indicating the responsible agency and timeline (see table below). It is further proposed that a follow-up independent assessment should be conducted in 18 months' time to track progress against the implementation of the GTT recommendations, and the recommendations of the current independent assessment. The precise modalities of this will be arranged to ensure proportionality and synergy with the forthcoming UNAIDS evaluation process.

Most recommendations are intended for the UN. The UNAIDS secretariat will, for many of these actions, have responsibility for initiating and monitoring progress, but action will often have to be taken by one or all of the cosponsors, either at the country level through the UN country team or at the global level.

This is reinforced by the recent Secretary-General's Policy Committee meeting on "Strengthening the AIDS Response", which decided that resident coordinators would be asked to report progress on implementing joint UN teams and programmes on AIDS in early 2008.

The review recognized the important role of bilateral partners in more effectively supporting the national AIDS response, through implementing their commitments to the Paris Declaration, supported by the recommendations of the Global Task Team. The influence of bilateral partners can be seen both directly where they fund AIDS activities in partner countries as well as through the degree of coherence on different UN, and other boards, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The expected costs for the follow-up is estimated at 1, 130.000 USD.

Plan for follow-up to the independent assessment

Actions	Timeline	Responsible	Responds to Recommendations
<p>1a. Joint UN Country Teams on AIDS to institute Annual Reviews of their Programme of Support, to assess progress and impact of the joint programme, its effectiveness in support to national AIDS response, and the resources required to fulfil their Division of Labour responsibilities.</p> <p>1b. These Annual Review reports will be fed back by the RCs to the Regional Directors Teams who will ensure a quality oversight role for the countries in their region, and also to UNAIDS secretariat in Geneva and the cosponsor Global Coordinators.</p>	<p>Annual Review process to be introduced by December 2007</p> <p>First guidance has already been issued from the UN Development Group (May 2006).</p>	<p>RC initiation – UCC facilitation</p> <p>Joint UN Teams with oversight by Regional Directors and UNAIDS Regional Support Teams</p>	<p>These Annual Reviews should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address functioning of Division of Labour, including assess coverage of DoL where lead agencies are absent (Rec. 1) • Assess effectiveness of in-country communications of the Joint UN Team on AIDS to external partners, and the support it offers (Rec. 2) • Feedback on joint team's technical support including GIST and ASAP (Rec. 6) • Involve external partners (Rec. 10), • Re-examine resources required for GTT Implementation (Rec. 11)
<p>2. The UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors, at regional and HQ level, will perform a quality assurance role regarding Joint UN Team on AIDS Annual Reviews.</p>	<p>Second guidance paper that includes guidance on annual reviews will be issued before end of 2007.</p>	<p>Regional Directors and UNAIDS RST with Joint UN Team and UN Theme Group</p> <p>HQ UNAIDS Secretariat</p>	<p>Rec. 3: Develop quality assurance role for joint UN team on AIDS outputs</p> <p>Rec. 7: Secretariat holding cosponsors accountable concerning joint teams, joint programmes and division of labour</p>
<p>3. Cosponsor Heads of Agency at country level to apply the guidance, process and inclusion of appropriate text in Job Descriptions and performance appraisals, ensuring enhanced harmonization and incentives for joint team collaboration.</p>	<p>4th Quarter 2007</p>	<p>HQ Cosponsor supported by UNAIDS Secretariat</p>	<p>Rec. 7: Secretariat holding cosponsors accountable concerning joint teams, joint programmes and division of labour</p> <p>Rec. 8: Joint UN Team Participation embedded in all job descriptions</p> <p>Rec. 14: Cosponsor directives to country offices on joint programme implementation and harmonizing operating procedures and systems</p>

Actions	Timeline	Responsible	Responds to Recommendations
4. Intensified technical support experiences from 5 countries will inform approaches and tools.	Draft roadmap produced by December 2007	HQ UNAIDS Secretariat, cosponsors and TSFs	Rec. 4: Put in place harmonized system for accessing technical support
5. Review of GIST TOR	Review presented to GIST 9-10 October 2007 TOR available by end of October	GIST chair and members	Rec. 5: Comprehensive Review of TOR for GIST
6. Synthesis report building on current and forthcoming studies (OECD, WB/GF/PEPFAR, Evaluation of UN implementation of Paris Declaration)	Reporting to 22 nd PCB meeting	HQ UNAIDS Secretariat	Rec. 9: Study on UN and donor agency incentives that drive or hinder harmonization
7a. Ongoing with first presentation at PCB June 2007 of 2008-09 UBW 7b. Develop timeline for mid-term review of 2008/09 UBW and for development of next UBW	Reporting to 22 nd PCB meeting in 2008	UNAIDS secretariat and cosponsors with oversight by CCO	Rec. 12: Align future UBWs with Division of Labour
8. Revised guidelines for enhanced PAF to be approved by end 2007	Presented to GTT Oversight Reference Group by end 2007 to document action taken	HQ UNAIDS Secretariat & selected cosponsors	Rec. 13: Agree on enhanced PAF or alternate mechanism to channel funds to country level

Actions	Timeline	Responsible	Responds to Recommendations
9. Studies undertaken and report to the CCO and PCB	Presented to the 23 rd or 24 th PCB meeting	UN Country Team initiate and UCC facilitate with joint UN team on AIDS Compiled by HQ UNAIDS Secretariat	Rec. 15: Track GTT progress in UN reform countries
10. Invite donors to present at future PCBs action to support the “Three Ones” and GTT recommendations. This should be based on reviews of donor funding programmes at country level and through case studies to document best practices.	Report to 22 nd PCB meeting in 2008 (maybe as topic for thematic session)	Bilateral partners Support and follow-up by GTT Oversight Reference Group	Rec. 16: Fulfil commitments to implement Paris Declaration and GTT processes Rec. 18: Donor reporting to PCB on their GTT and harmonization and alignment progress
11. Commission consultant to undertake desk review of statements & decisions at PCB and Cosponsor Boards during one year	Report to 22 nd PCB meeting in 2008	Global Coordinators to provide UNAIDS Secretariat with documentation	Rec. 17: Coherence of member states on various UN boards
12a. Support country implementation of CHAT to assess practice of all partners. 12b. UNAIDS Secretariat will report to PCB on CHAT implementation as per decision 4.5 from December 2006 Board meeting	Report by end of 2007	Bilaterals, partner countries and other stakeholders at national level. Support and follow-up by HQ UNAIDS Secretariat	Rec. 19: Use CHAT as part of the national joint review process

