



Second Independent Evaluation of UNAIDS
Oversight Committee

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From the Oversight Committee Chair
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Dear Stakeholders,

This note is to inform you of events since October 2008, in particular the results of the Fourth Meeting of the Oversight Committee (OC4) that took place in Kuala Lumpur on 2-4 February 2009, and to outline future plans and milestones.

My report to the 23rd meeting of the PCB in December 2008 is on the Second Independent Evaluation (SIE) webpage: <http://www.unaids.org/en/AboutUNAIDS/IndependantEvaluation/default.asp>, as well as my presentation, and provide information on progress, significant events and issues for the Second Independent Evaluation.

The main agenda items for OC4, attended by the Evaluation Team, included review of evaluation reports, milestones, financial matters, and provisions for stakeholder consultations on evaluation findings.

Two evaluation reports were reviewed. The first was the Quarterly Report, providing factual information on implementation of the agreed workplan. The second was a substantive report on progress on findings and issues emerging from the country studies, document reviews, and interviews with stakeholders – including Cosponsors, Member States, Civil Society Organizations, and vulnerable groups such as PLHIV.

The Oversight Committee is confident that the Evaluation is on schedule, despite some adjustments in milestones, and that the methodology and evidence from the assessment stage will provide sufficient material for a synthesis report on findings for practical recommendations on evaluation questions approved by the PCB.

Considerable attention was devoted at the meeting to planning stakeholder consultations on evaluation findings. The Oversight Committee and Evaluation Team decided to hold consultations at an earlier stage than the draft Final Report, so that stakeholders can significantly contribute to verification of findings, provide ideas on priority issues, and how these might be addressed in the recommendations of the Final Report. The consultations are also intended to familiarize stakeholders with material to be addressed in the Final Evaluation Report, and thereby establish ownership of the process.

Thus, we are organizing a wide consultation on evaluation findings from 25 May to 12 June. The consultations include two related activities: i) distribution with solicitation of written comments through UNAIDS mailing lists and the SIE website of a document prepared by the Evaluation Team on evaluation findings; and ii) a Stakeholder Workshop, to be held in Geneva, during 3-5 June. Information on the agenda and topics of the Workshop will be provided as planning advances.

My second Report to the 24th PCB in June 2009, will provide information on overall progress of the Evaluation, including results of the stakeholder consultations, and milestones and financial matters. An updated timeline is attached for your information.

The Oversight Committee is working on the basis of critical factors of success for a quality product and process for the Evaluation, as I reported in December 2008 to the PCB – independent oversight, transparency, impartiality, and participation of stakeholders. Now that we are beginning to see some results on progress against the Terms of Reference set by the PCB, the work of the Committee and myself as Chair, is becoming even more exciting, and I am honoured to be a part of such an important exercise for the future of UNAIDS.

The Oversight Committee welcomes your comments and views on the Evaluation, and can be contacted by email, telephone, letter or fax at the coordinates on this letterhead.

Catherine Hodgkin
Chair
Oversight Committee
Second Independent Evaluation of UNAIDS