



Second Independent Evaluation of UNAIDS
Oversight Committee

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From the Oversight Committee Chair
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Dear Stakeholders,

I wish to inform you on my [oral report to the Programme Coordinating Board \(PCB\)](#) on 24 June 2009, covering -- where we are at present in the Evaluation process, issues and follow-up to the consultations on preliminary evaluation findings, and the Oversight Committee's approach to fulfilling its PCB mandate.

The Evaluation Team has completed the evidence-gathering phase, including 12 country visits, regional consultations, interviews and meetings with Member States, civil society, UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors at global, regional and country levels, meetings with current and former UNAIDS Executive Directors, and web-based surveys of PCB members and general stakeholders.

The stakeholder consultations on preliminary evaluation findings were the final stages in the information gathering process, and provided the Evaluation Team with valuable feedback for insights and new evidence on a number of key issues.

The Evaluation Team is now in the process of the analysis, synthesis and verification stage in preparation for writing the draft Final Report. The Report will be sent to the Oversight Committee on 7 August, and reviewed at their meeting on 2-4 September. The Final Report will be sent directly to the PCB Chair on 30 September.

The Evaluation Report, the UNAIDS response, the Oversight Committee report on quality of the Evaluation, and results of the PCB *ad interim* working group on working methods of the PCB, taking into consideration the Evaluation conclusions and recommendations, will be discussed at the upcoming PCB meeting, 8-10 December 2009.

Stakeholder consultations on preliminary evaluation findings were undertaken at a relatively early stage when broad findings were emerging but while there was still time to use additional evidence and to feed in new perspectives and ideas. The consultations included a Workshop held on 3-4 June, and submission of written comments to allow for wide-ranging input from stakeholder groups, and participation indicated the high degree of interest in the SIE. Full documentation, including proceedings of the Workshop, reports from study groups, and written comments received are posted on the SIE website.

Stakeholders appreciated the general quality of the consultation document and its comprehensive coverage of the Evaluation questions. However, as the document was not a draft report, and therefore did not include comprehensive details on context, methodology and background information, stakeholders requested assurance that such information would be provided in the Final Report, in order to have credible, evidence-based substantiation of findings, conclusions and recommendations. The Final Evaluation Report will have several annexes including methodology, bibliography and document lists, informants contacted, survey results, and background papers on governance and other relevant topics.

The Oversight Committee has been mandated by the PCB to ensure a credible and independent Evaluation that results in a high-quality, forward-looking Report relevant to the future of UNAIDS. At its first meeting, the Committee identified a number of critical success factors including independence, transparency, impartiality, stakeholder involvement, cooperation with UNAIDS Secretariat and Cosponsors, and selection of a qualified Evaluation Team. In structuring our work on the basis of these principles, we are guided by DAC Principles for the Evaluation of Development Assistance.

In fulfilling our oversight role on quality and transparency, the Oversight Committee carefully reviews the reports of the Evaluation Team for adherence to the agreed workplan, as well as progress on Evaluation findings. The Committee has a review framework for this purpose that looks, among other things, at the coverage of the TORs, the adequacy and breadth of evidence, clarity and consistency, and inclusion of cross-cutting issues.

In safeguarding the transparency and independence of the Evaluation, the Oversight Committee selected the Evaluation Team through an impartial bidding process assisted by UNOPS; has a dedicated secretariat and professional evaluation consultant, to provide independent support and advice; and established a SIE webpage to provide regular updates and documentation on Evaluation progress, and to encourage stakeholder participation, including through two workshops at key milestone in the Evaluation process.

In conclusion, I am pleased to report that the Evaluation is on schedule and well within the approved PCB financial estimates. I feel confident that the Final Report will be of high quality, is well-grounded, will respond to the terms of reference, and be forward-looking. The process has encouraged input and active participation of stakeholders in a transparent process. It is being carried out with full cooperation of the Secretariat, Cosponsors, and stakeholders.

Independence, transparency and impartiality are Oversight Committee hallmarks for the Evaluation.

I look forward to the findings, recommendations and discussions at the PCB in December 2009.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Hodgkin
Chair, Oversight Committee
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