

Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors



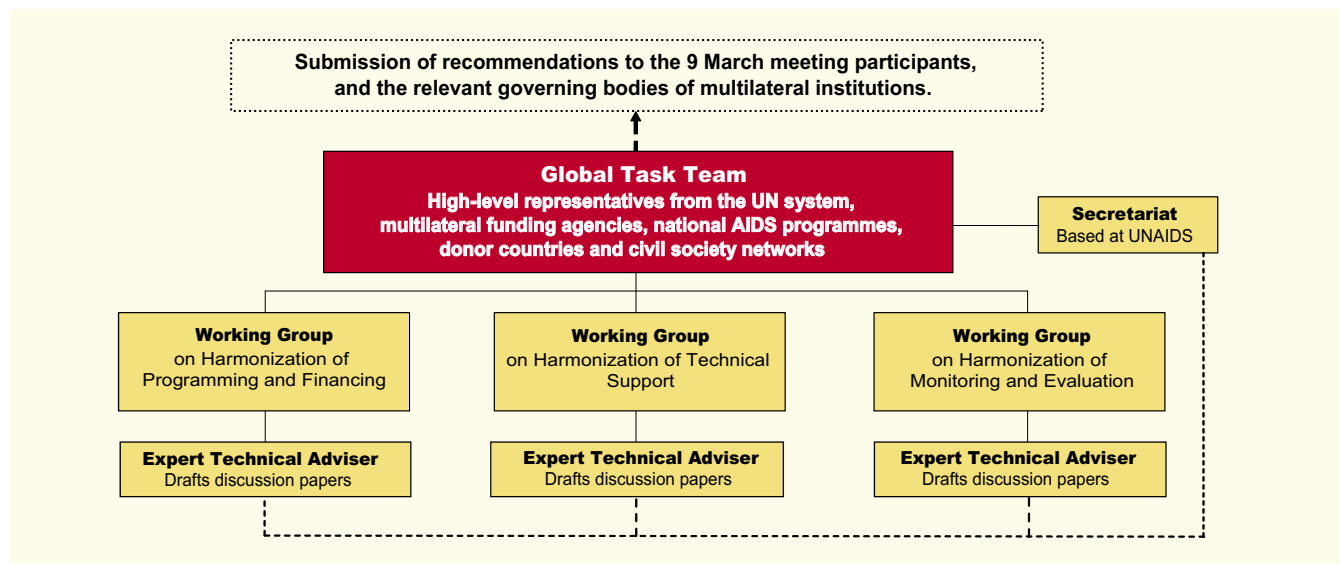
Leaders from donor and developing country governments, civil society, UN agencies, and other multilateral and international institutions met in London on 9 March 2005, and agreed to form a Global Task Team to develop a set of recommendations within 80 days on improving the institutional architecture of the response to HIV and AIDS. The particular focus is on how the multilateral system can streamline, simplify and further harmonize procedures and practices to improve the effectiveness of country-led responses and reduce the burden placed on countries.

The Global Task Team, convened by the UNAIDS Secretariat, will base its recommendations on the advice of a wide range of relevant stakeholders from both global and country levels. The recommendations of the Global Task Team should be in line with the “Three Ones” principles for AIDS coordination, take into account related efforts emanating from the London meeting, be consistent with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and be informed by UN reform efforts. The recommendations will inform the replenishment process of the Global Fund, and will be presented for endorsement to the governing bodies of the Global Fund, the World Bank, regional lending institutions, UNAIDS and its Cosponsors, civil society networks and other relevant multilateral institutions.

The ultimate aim is the acceleration of global action to achieve “3 by 5”, the Millennium Development Goals and the related goals set at the 2001 UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS—in other words, a significant improvement in the delivery of services to people affected by the epidemic in low- and middle-income countries.

Accelerating the Coordination and Harmonization

More than 55 governments and organizations are participating in this process (see list on back page). The Global Task Team alone comprises 20 high-level representatives drawn from the 9 March 2005 meeting. Task Team members have appropriate experience from the governing bodies of UNAIDS and its Cosponsors, the Global Fund and its Country Coordinating Mechanisms, national AIDS programmes, donor countries and civil society networks, including networks of people living with HIV. Members are high-level institutional leaders who can speak on behalf of their organizations or constituencies, and will make the time commitments required to finalize the recommendations within the timeframe set by the 9 March participants.



The work of the Global Task Team will be principally informed by the deliberations of three Working Groups, each focusing on a major phase of the external support process.

1. Working Group on the Harmonization of Programming and Financing.

This group will concentrate on identifying and proposing solutions to the challenges facing multilateral organizations in institutionalizing a harmonized approach to programming and financing HIV and AIDS responses. The OECD Development Assistance Committee framework for harmonization will be used to examine the extent to which the financing modalities, assessment procedures, procurement policies, and financial management systems of the various multilateral agencies:

- support the process of developing country ownership;
- align with country agendas and systems; and
- harmonize through establishing common arrangements, simplifying procedures and sharing information.

Possible improvements identified will be both at the global level and for individual multilateral institutions on ways in which their policies, procedures, and practices at country level can be strengthened in order to facilitate harmonization.

2. Working Group on the Harmonization of Technical Support.

This group will look at the institutional architecture for the provision of technical support. It will focus on developing options for strengthening the process of coordinating technical support at country level (both short-term technical assistance and longer-term capacity building to ensure sustainability), although the interface between country and global levels will also be explored. The group will examine the comparative advantages of different providers of technical support and mechanisms by which they are financed, in order to develop options on streamlining the global architecture of technical assistance.

3. Working Group on the Harmonization of Monitoring and Evaluation.

This group will assess the current state of efforts to harmonize the monitoring and evaluation of HIV and AIDS responses, with a view to understanding the challenges to further strengthening harmonization. It will then propose options for improving the monitoring and evaluation policies, systems and practices of the multilateral institutions. It will also consider global initiatives to coordinate and improve monitoring and evaluation systems, and look at ways to improve the functioning of the global architecture.

Specific Recommendations for Positive Change



The Global Task Team and its Working Groups will each meet at least twice within 80 days of 9 March. The Working Groups will identify priority challenges facing the global support system to national AIDS responses and present to the Global Task Team a set of specific actions that would address them. In the determination of priority challenges, each Working Group will be requested to undertake in its particular focus area:

- a mapping of the existing players and their relationships, including existing coordination mechanisms;
- identification of differences in preferred modes of operation with recipient governments;
- identification of duplications, gaps, bottlenecks and barriers to harmonization; and
- identification of the comparative advantages of UN system agencies, major fund-raising mechanisms and major funding institutions.

Based on the advice of the Working Groups, the Global Task Team will explore options and develop a combined set of recommendations that include specific short-, medium- and long-term actions stakeholders should take to improve the performance of the international architecture supporting country-led national programmes to scale up the AIDS response. These recommendations may include the following.

- A more coherent division of labour among multilateral institutions based on reducing duplication to an acceptable level and filling existing gaps.
- Ways to strengthen coordination mechanisms at the global level, including working modalities among individual organizations.
- Ways to decrease competition in fundraising.
- Ways of increasing collaboration among the UN family, the Global Fund and other multilateral institutions in the provision of effective technical support to countries.
- Ways to harmonize monitoring, evaluation and reporting (including investment in metrics and quality of data), simplification, attribution, accountability to national-level stakeholders and to external supporters.
- How the recommendations can be institutionalized by organizations' governance forums and processes.

Key Events in the Global Task Team Process



all dates tentative

Broad, high-level engagement

Invited Governments and Organizations

Global Task Team	Working Group on Harmonization of Programming and Financing	Working Group on Harmonization of Technical Support	Working Group on Harmonization of Monitoring and Evaluation
UNAIDS Secretariat (Co-Chair)	World Bank (Co-Chair)	WHO (Co-Chair)	Global Fund (Co-Chair)
Sweden (Co-Chair)	USA (Co-Chair)	Brazil (Co-Chair)	Cameroon (Co-Chair)
AU Commissioner	African Development Bank	Bahamas	Asian Development Bank
Brazil	Cambodia	Belgium	Australia
Cameroon	Canada	China	Civil society (independent)
CARICOM	Civil society (AfrICASO)	Civil society (Int'l HIV/AIDS Alliance)	Civil society (International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine)
Civil society (Internews)	Civil society (IFRC)	Civil society (Zambia National AIDS Network)	Côte d'Ivoire
Civil society (Hong Kong AIDS Foundation)	Denmark	Germany	Guatemala
EC	ECLAC	Inter-American Development Bank	Ireland
France	Ghana	Kenya	Malawi
Global Fund	Global Fund	The Netherlands	Spain
India	France	Senegal	Thailand
Italy	Haiti	Russia	Uganda
Japan	Mali	UNAIDS Cosponsor (RC Viet Nam)	UNAIDS Secretariat
Nigeria	Tanzania	Zambia	UNAIDS Cosponsor (WHO)
Norway	UK		USA
South Africa	UNAIDS Cosponsor (RC Tanzania)		World Bank
UNAIDS Cosponsor (UNDP)			
UNAIDS Cosponsor (UNICEF)			
UNDG Programme Group			
UK			
USA			
WHO			
World Bank			

TBD = exact participant to be determined by constituency group.