

25 April 2005

Dear Colleague,

We are delighted to provide you with a further update on progress of the Global Task Team and the Resource Needs Framework.

Resource Needs Steering Committee

The Resource Needs Steering Committee met for the first time on Friday 15 April in Geneva. The Committee discussed a number of key issues including underlying assumptions that are critical to estimating financial resource needs such as projected target levels for programme coverage, methodologic approaches, the use of scenarios, and how to assess programmatic capacity constraints and the investments needed to address them.

Key outcomes from the steering committee meeting include agreement that the resource needs exercise would be limited to the next three years (2006 – 2008) and agreement on the terms of reference for the Technical Working Group. As part of the meeting it was also decided that the Technical Working Group should be constituted with approximately 15 members (5 from the pre-March 9 Advisory Group and 10 additional persons with diverse experience/expertise, including economics, modelling, costing, programme implementation). Proposed names for the additional 10 members of the Technical Working Group were to be submitted to the Secretariat by Friday April 22 and the full list of participants will be shared soon thereafter.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is proposed for Tuesday 17 May in Geneva. The Technical Working Group will meet in early May (date TBC). The Note for the Record from the first Steering Committee meeting will be shared early this week.

The Global Task Team on Improving Coordination among multilateral institutions and international donors

Seventy three governments, organizations and members of the civil society have been invited to join in the Global Task Team and its three Working Groups. Almost all have confirmed their participation and identified a representative and we hope to hear from the remaining invitees in the coming days.

Preparation for the discussion papers for the three Working Groups is underway. The first meetings of the Working Groups will occur between 12-18 May. Exact dates and venues will be announced to participants later this week.

Global Task Team Co-Chair, Michel Sidibe presented the Global Task Team process to the UN Development Group's (UNDG) Programme Group and the UNDG Director in New York. Both responded positively and expressed support for the process. UNDG Programme Group Chair Kunio Waki is a Global Task Team member.

A special meeting of the Global Task Team and Working Group Co-Chairs took place on Saturday 23 April to ensure a shared vision of the final product of the Global Task Team and coherence in the work of the Working Groups, as well as institutionalization of recommendations. The meeting discussed various issues related to the process, including the ongoing drafting of the discussion papers and finalization of the dates and venues of the Working Group and Global Task Team meetings.

The recommendations of the Global Task Team will be presented to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) at its next meeting on 27 to 29 June for consideration. An update of the work of the Resource Needs group will also be given to the PCB for information. We will of course keep you fully updated on further plans to institutionalize the recommendations and other progress.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in these two important initiatives. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Kind regards,

Paul De Lay and Rob Moodie
Co-Chairs for the Resource Needs Steering Committee

Michel Sidibe and Lennarth Hjelmaker
Co-Chairs for the Global Task Team