



Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

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Commitment to principles for concerted AIDS action at country level

The AIDS epidemic is a complex global crisis, which continues to worsen. At the same time, the world is responding more effectively than ever before. National responses are broader and stronger, and have improved access to financial resources and commodities.

We, bilateral and multilateral donor agencies meeting with national leaders combating the spread of AIDS, reaffirm our broad and sustained commitment to supporting national AIDS responses. We endorse the “Three Ones” or key principles for concerted AIDS action at country level, with a view toward achieving the most effective and efficient use of available resources and ensuring rapid action and result-based management. These principles – detailed in the conference papers¹ – are:

- One agreed HIV/AIDS Action Framework that provides the basis for coordinating the work of all partners.
- One National AIDS Coordinating Authority, with a broad based multi-sectoral mandate.
- One agreed country level Monitoring and Evaluation System.

The “Three Ones” are not prescriptive global blueprints. We acknowledge that their application will result in adaptations appropriate to each country and the situations and the institutions concerned, and we commit ourselves to maximising their realization through a process that includes all stakeholders.

As donors, we have a variety of comparative strengths allowing for different entry points for support to effective AIDS action, such as focusing on the emergency nature of the AIDS crisis or mainstreaming AIDS within the broader development context. The “Three Ones” implies a mutual recognition of these different approaches and seeks to make them complementary within a nationally-driven AIDS response that can achieve results and sustain them. The principles are fully compatible with the Rome Declaration on Harmonisation done in Rome on February 25, 2003 and the work of Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on aid effectiveness and donor practices².

Inherent to these principles is our shared recognition of the urgent need for responding to AIDS in an exceptional way which supports inclusive national ownership and clearly defined accountability³.

On the basis of the “Three Ones” principles, bilateral and multilateral agencies meeting with national leaders in Washington April 2004, agree to take the following steps to apply these principles for concerted AIDS action at country level:

I - One agreed HIV/AIDS Action Framework that provides the basis for coordinating the work of all partners

1. In coordination with national leadership, engage with other stakeholders to review, and affirm the existing national AIDS action plans, updating them where necessary and adapting programmes and projects.
2. Design assessments and programming visits in ways that support the national AIDS action plans, undertake them jointly with partners where possible, ensure the inclusion of national stakeholders and maximise the use of national capacity and competence.

¹ Conference Paper 1: “Three Ones” key principles

² DAC Guidelines and Reference Series: Harmonising Donor Practices for Effective Aid Delivery

³ Conference Paper 2: Report of the consultation process: Clearing the common ground for the “Three Ones”

3. Engage with national stakeholders in action-oriented policy dialogue to analyse and overcome barriers to an effective AIDS response, and to achieve an enabling policy environment in areas such as macroeconomic policy and human resource policies.
4. Participate with other stakeholders to coordinate complementary strategies between expanded AIDS action and health sector support, maximising synergies, expanding access and delivery options and co-ordinating Technical Assistance to the extent possible.

II - One National AIDS Coordinating Authority, with a broad based multi-sector mandate.

5. Support country-based inclusive reviews of existing coordinating bodies related to AIDS, in order to achieve common agreement on one broad based national AIDS coordinating authority with features and functions consistent with the “Three Ones” guiding principles, including its relationship to other partnerships, funding arrangements and institutions.
6. Contribute to the capacity of the national AIDS coordinating authority to set priorities, policies and monitor progress fully, inclusively and transparently.
7. Support broad partnership forums where all stakeholders, including NGOs and people living with AIDS, can channel policy and programme recommendations to the national AIDS coordinating authority.

III - One agreed country level Monitoring and Evaluation System.

8. Support nationally-led efforts to establish a single, functional M&E system at country level which links various data collection and analysis efforts to meet the needs of both donors and programme implementers.
9. Support the capacity of national institutions to track, monitor, and evaluate programme results and contribute to the policy dialogue on AIDS.
10. Review individual agency programmes to harmonize the M&E indicators with internationally accepted HIV indicators as adapted by the national system in order to minimize additional management and reporting burden on stretched national capacity.

Follow Up

The dynamic and exceptional nature of the global HIV/AIDS crisis calls for a response involving country-specific adaptation and application of the “Three Ones” guiding principles and systematic follow-up and support, problem-solving and learning.

We, bilateral and multilateral donor agencies meeting with national leaders, are committed to respond in concert to various needs and roles in support of the country level “Three Ones” platform, as being requested by the national AIDS coordinating authority and based on our comparative strengths.

Further, we affirm and support the role for UNAIDS at the country level as a facilitator and mediator between stakeholders in country-led processes for following up these commitments, including tracking country level progress in implementing the “Three Ones”, and helping integrate an assessment of the efficacy of coordination arrangements and the application of the “Three Ones” into existing national reports.

We also recommend that UNAIDS produce an annual report and facilitate action-oriented policy dialogue on progress towards the “Three Ones” principles for concerted AIDS action at country level and issues arising from implementation and coordination of country programmes;

At the global level we, as bilateral and multilateral agencies meeting with national leaders, note the need for further dialogue with international organisations and financing institutions, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, on ways to connect effectively a sustainable AIDS response with poverty reduction frameworks and general aid harmonisation procedures.