



UNAIDS/PCB(22)/08.9
29 February 2008

**22nd Meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating
Board
Chiang Mai, Thailand
23-25 April 2008**

Provisional agenda item 8.1:

Follow-up to the Global Task Team Independent Assessment

Additional documents for this item: *none*

Action required at this meeting - the Programme Coordinating Board is invited to:

Take note of the establishment and progress of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board Reference group on oversight of the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Task Team Independent Assessment in support of national AIDS Responses ("GTT Oversight Reference Group"), as presented by its chair.

Cost implications for decisions: *none*

1. The UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board adopted the recommendations by the *Global Task Team on improving AIDS Co-ordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors (GTT)* in 2005. On request of the 18th Programme Coordinating Board meeting, the report: “*An independent assessment of progress on the implementation of the global task team recommendations in support of national aids responses*”, prepared by the Health and Life Sciences Partnership (HLSP) was presented to the 20th PCB meeting in June 2007¹.
2. The 20th Programme Coordinating Board meeting took the following decisions in follow-up to the *report of the Global Task Team Independent Assessment*:
 - 13.1 *Adopts the recommendations contained in the Report of the Global Task Team Independent Assessment (document UNAIDS/PCB(20)/07.9) and acknowledges their cost implications as outlined in the annex to the report;*
 - 13.2 *Requests the UNAIDS family to take forward its management response to the recommendations in 13.1; and*
 - 13.3 *Requests the Programme Coordinating Board Bureau to establish a reference group for oversight and² implementation of the recommendations in 13.1.*
3. The UNAIDS response and follow-up plan has been finalized by the Committee of Cosponsor Organizations (CCO) in its meeting in October 2007. This plan includes decisions on how the recommendations from the independent GTT review will be taken forward, under the oversight of the GTT Oversight Reference Group.
4. The Programme Coordinating Board Bureau called for nominations after its August 2007 meeting for members of the GTT Oversight Reference Group. Nominations from 5 donor and 5 partner countries were received, as well as from one NGO and one cosponsor. The membership is Thailand (Chair), Senegal, South Africa, Lesotho, Kenya, France, Japan, Monaco, Norway, USA, WHO, International HIV/AIDS Alliance. The GTT Oversight Reference Group thus established under chairmanship of Thailand, held its first meeting on 14th November.
5. During its first meeting the Group discussed its role and ways of working, as laid down in the Terms of Reference. The group decided to focus on support and oversight to UNAIDS implementation of its response and follow-up plan. The vision of the Group is to support implementation of the individual action items with an eye towards results on the “Three Ones” in support to national AIDS responses. The Terms of Reference have been approved by the Programme Coordinating Board Bureau, see Annex to this paper.
6. During the second meeting the Group finalized its workplan, based on the Terms of Reference and the UNAIDS response and follow-up plan. Specific activities carried out by the Group will include 1) communication with development partners

¹ Report of the independent assessment of progress on the implementation of the global task team recommendations in support of national aids responses, HLSP, Kathy Attawell and Clare Dickinson, 11 May 2007 http://data.unaids.org/pub/ExternalDocument/2007/hlsp_gtt_assessment_item4_3_en.pdf

² The PCB Bureau meeting on 23 August 2007 understood that this should read “...oversight of the implementation...”

and cosponsors regarding their responsibility on “Three Ones” and GTT implementation; and 2) analysis of all received information, resulting in a report to the 23rd Programme Coordinating Board meeting.

7. The chair of the Group will report to the 22nd Programme Coordinating Board meeting on progress in the implementation of the GTT Oversight Reference Group work plan and indicate the expected results to be reported to the 23rd Programme Coordinating Board meeting.
8. **The Programme Coordinating Board is invited to take note of the establishment and progress of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board Reference group on oversight of the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Task Team Independent Assessment in support of national AIDS Responses (“GTT Oversight Reference Group”).**

Annex

Terms of Reference

UNAIDS PCB Reference group on oversight of the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Task Team Independent Assessment in support of national AIDS Responses (“GTT Oversight Reference Group”)

I. Background to the GTT Independent Assessment

1. In June 2006, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board urged all partners to fully respect their commitments to the “Three Ones” and the Global Task Team Recommendations. (Further background details on the GTT process can be found in the Annex). The PCB decided to undertake an independent assessment of Global Task Team implementation at country level which would report to the Programme Coordinating Board in December 2006. The PCB Bureau constituted a GTT Assessment Reference Group, which consists of representation from Sweden (chair), Thailand, Netherlands, Kenya, US, UK, UNDP (Co-sponsor representation) and YouAct (Portugal, NGO Representative). The GTT Assessment Reference Group oversaw the Assessment process, including the choice of Consultants, and received the draft and final reports.

2. The report “An independent assessment of progress on the implementation of the global task team recommendations in support of national aids responses”, prepared by HLSP was presented to the 20th PCB meeting in June 2007³. (The Recommendations of this report are attached in annex 2). The UNAIDS secretariat has drafted a response that has been finalized by the Committee of Cosponsor Organizations (CCO) in its meeting in October 2007. The final version is attached in annex 3 and includes decisions on how the recommendations from the independent GTT review will be taken forward, under the oversight of the GTT reference group.

3. The 20th PCB recognized that the assessment had taken place in an early stage of GTT implementation, but stated it was useful to take stock and identify the areas for improvement. The PCB endorsed the recommendations as well as the framework for follow-up, and took the following decisions:

Agenda item 4.3: Report of the Global Task Team Independent Assessment

- 13.1 Adopts the recommendations contained in the Report of the Global Task Team Independent Assessment (document UNAIDS/PCB(20)/07.9) and acknowledges their cost implications as outlined in the annex to the report;*
- 13.2 Requests the UNAIDS family to take forward its management response to the recommendations in 13.1; and*
- 13.3 Requests the Programme Coordinating Board Bureau to establish a reference group for oversight and⁴ implementation of the recommendations in 13.1.**

The discussion of this item at the 20th PCB also noted the following, which are relevant to the execution of the Oversight Reference Group duties⁵:

³ Report of the independent assessment of progress on the implementation of the global task team recommendations in support of national aids responses, HLSP, Kathy Attawell and Clare Dickinson, 11 May 2007 http://data.unaids.org/pub/ExternalDocument/2007/hlsp_gtt_assessment_item4_3_en.pdf

⁴ The PCB Bureau meeting on 23 August 2007 understood that this should read “...oversight of the implementation...”

On accountability, delegates agreed that the donor community would report to the PCB on harmonization progress. One constituency urged that the accountability of the Resident Coordinators for coordination of the UN at country level and the development of joint plans be observed. Overall, caution was expressed that at the country level, accountability of the process should be driven by national actors, with the involvement of civil society, and not by technical agencies.

Also, with relation to the UNAIDS response to the recommendations of the GTT Independent assessment the 20th PCB recorded:

The Cosponsors were pleased to report that actions had already been taken in a number of the areas identified in the report, for instance the revision of the terms of reference of the GIST and the UBW based on the division of labour. They supported the need for improved accountability for all partners, and for themselves would establish a simple mechanism consistent with UN structures. Cosponsoring agencies would also report to their own governing bodies on progress made in terms of implementing the GTT Recommendations.

4. These Terms of Reference have been developed to fulfill this recommendation to ensure PCB oversight and support to the implementation of the GTT recommendations and outline the objectives, membership, operation and support for the reference group that will carry out these functions.

II. Objectives for the GTT Reference Group

5. The GTT reference group will oversee the implementation of necessary actions following the recommendations of the Independent Assessment presented to the 20th PCB meeting – in particular the actions highlighted in the UNAIDS Response to be ratified at the Global Coordinators/Committee of Cosponsoring Organisations meeting of October 2007 (see attached). This oversight role includes both where the responsibility lies with UNAIDS or with organisations external to UNAIDS (e.g. bilateral donors). The Reference Group will oversee the reporting requirements of all identified relevant stakeholders, (as identified in the GTT Independent Assessment Report) to the PCB on their GTT progress without duplicating existing mechanisms.

6. The reference group will oversee that actions are implemented in a coherent and effective way, in line with PCB decisions relating to the GTT independent assessment as well as other decisions, in particular those relating to UN reform.

7. Reports by the relevant UN and non-UN actors identified in the Independent Assessment report (such as bilateral donors the GFATM, and other partners) as important to the implementation of the GTT recommendations, will be solicited by the GTT Oversight Reference Group, and consolidated by UNAIDS Secretariat, and presented to the Reference Group, who will review progress and seek to improve implementation.

⁵ http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2007/pcb_20_final_report_edited_en.pdf

III. Membership of the GTT reference group

8. The GTT Oversight Reference Group will be constituted by and report to the PCB Bureau, and through the PCB Bureau to the PCB itself. The PCB Bureau may, in consultation with the GTT Oversight Reference Group, propose to the PCB to dissolve the Reference Group at a time when it is not longer deemed an appropriate instrument, but it is envisaged that the life of the group would not go beyond the PCB meeting at the end of 2008 and end with the presentation of the report of the follow up independent assessment proposed for end 2008.

9. The Reference Group should comprise a balance of partner countries, donors, UNAIDS Cosponsors (1) and Civil Society (1). The selected institutions/countries are:

- Partner Countries –Thailand (Chair), Senegal, South Africa, Lesotho, Kenya
- Bilateral Donors – France, Japan, Monaco, Norway, USA
- UNAIDS Cosponsors – WHO
- Civil Society – International HIV/AIDS Alliance

UNAIDS Secretariat will participate to support the Reference Group in its functioning (see paragraph 11).

IV. Organization and operational procedures of the GTT Oversight Reference Group

10. Most of the Reference Group's work will be conducted by email and teleconference wherever possible. The group will meet every 3 months, with interim consultation by e-mail. At the decision of the Chair, occasional face-to-face meetings may be called where critical issues are to be discussed – however this should not be more than twice per year.

11. UNAIDS secretariat will provide secretariat support for the Reference Group. This will include support for organizing meetings, providing teleconference facilities, developing agenda and minutes of meetings, and related tasks. This support will be provided by CER and AED Divisions.

12. The GTT Oversight Reference Group will design effective mechanisms to ensure accountability and successful implementation of the recommendations of the GTT Independent Assessment, including identifying and following through on reporting requirements, analysis and presentation of results to the PCB. The Reference Group will execute its duties in order to enhance and strengthen the role of the secretariat in collecting information on and pressing for progress.