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PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

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Progress Report on the Development of a UN System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS 2001-2005

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 1999, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) encouraged the Secretariat and Cosponsors to intensify their efforts towards developing a UN System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS. In May 2000, the PCB reaffirmed its request to the Secretariat to proceed with the development of the UN System Strategic Plan 2001-2005 in broad consultation with UN system and other partners.

This paper reviews progress to date and actions under way in response to the June 1999 and May 2000 recommendations of the PCB. A working draft of the UN System Strategic Plan will be made available on a controlled access Website for review and comments by PCB members and observers, and will also be available as a conference room document at the December 2000 meeting of the PCB. The final version of the Strategic Plan will be presented to the June 2001 PCB.

ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS MEETING

The PCB is invited to review progress to date and actions under way to develop a UN System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS for 2001-2005, and to provide guidance on the next steps in developing the Strategic Plan.

I. Background

1. In June 1999, UNAIDS presented the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) with an update on the increased attention given by the Secretariat and the Cosponsors to strategic planning, coordination and evaluation processes. At the meeting, the PCB *“encouraged the Secretariat and Cosponsors to intensify their efforts towards developing a UN System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS”*. The PCB also requested the Cosponsors to develop their institutional strategies, with balanced emphasis on priority regions, and to articulate their specific objectives, targets and plans to achieve those objectives. The Cosponsors and the Secretariat were asked to make use of planned regional forums, global conferences and governing bodies to consult broadly with governments and NGOs in the development of the UN System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS. The PCB further encouraged interested countries to actively support and facilitate the consultation process (UNAIDS/PCB(8)/99.7).

2. In July 1999, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) took note of the development of a United Nations System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS for 2001-2005 and urged Cosponsors and other organizations of the UN system *“to submit to their governing bodies their proposed contribution to the United Nations System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS for 2001-2005”* (E/1999/36/INF/2/Add.2/9c).

3. At the April 2000 meeting the UN Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) encouraged *“all organizations of the United Nations system to participate actively, together with the UNAIDS Secretariat and UNAIDS Co-sponsoring Organizations, in the development of the UN System Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS, 2001-2005”*.

4. In May 2000, the PCB reaffirmed its request to the Secretariat to proceed with the development of the UN System Strategic Plan for 2001-2005 in broad consultation with UN system and other partners. The PCB *“endorsed the proposed process and requested the Secretariat to table a working draft of the elaborated UN System Strategic Plan for discussion at its December 2000 Thematic meeting”*. The PCB also urged the Secretariat, Cosponsors and other partners to accelerate and intensify efforts to finalize the Global Strategy – subsequently renamed the Framework for Global Leadership on HIV/AIDS – for discussion at the PCB thematic meeting in December 2000, and take appropriate steps to ensure that it is well reflected in the development of the UN System Strategic Plan 2001-2005 (UNAIDS/PCB(9)/00.8).

II. Development of the UN System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS

5. Based on the recommendations of the PCB and ECOSOC, the Secretariat and the Cosponsors have intensified efforts to develop a UN System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS. In advance of the meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) in April 2000, the Cosponsors and 12 other UN system entities prepared summaries of their HIV/AIDS related work, including:

- governing board actions with respect to HIV/AIDS
- current institutional priorities and strategies addressing HIV/AIDS
- priority regions for HIV/AIDS and actions to strengthen country-level efforts

6. Following the ACC meeting, an update of the development of the UN System Strategic Plan was presented to the Cosponsors and the PCB in May 2000. The Inter-Agency Advisory Group on AIDS (IAAG) at its meeting in June 2000 received an update on the format for the plan, including that of individual agency components, and gave its inputs towards the further development of the plan. The summaries of the HIV/AIDS-related work of the agencies, programmes and other UN bodies that were presented to the ACC were made available to the CCO, PCB and the IAAG.

7. At the beginning of October 2000, a retreat on the Framework for Global Leadership on HIV/AIDS took place for which UNAIDS Cosponsors and other UN organizations were encouraged to produce a working draft of their individual institutional plans as background documents. Following the retreat, UN organizations are developing their contributions to the UN System Strategic Plan further while commenting on the plans of other UN organizations using a World Wide Web-based database.

III. Relationship between the UN System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS and the Framework for Global Leadership on HIV/AIDS

8. The *Framework for Global Leadership on HIV/AIDS* aims at providing a common basis for all actors at global, national and community levels – including the UN System – who need to be involved in the mobilization against HIV/AIDS. In particular, the Framework for Global Leadership paves the way for the international community to adopt the specific goals that will be needed as milestones in the global response to the epidemic. The Framework for Global Leadership provides the context for the *UN System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS*, which is developed to capture and coordinate the HIV/AIDS-related activities of the UN organizations over the next five years (2001-2005). The purpose of the UN System Strategic Plan is to provide a more coherent UN response in support of accelerated and improved global efforts to tackle the epidemic.

9. UN agencies, programmes and bodies are elaborating their respective HIV/AIDS strategies and contributions to the UN System Strategic Plan for 2001-2005 facilitated by a World Wide Web-based database developed by the UNAIDS Secretariat. From December 2000 onwards, PCB members will also be invited to review and comment on the plans in formation. The UNAIDS Secretariat will synthesize inputs from the different UN agencies, programmes and bodies and produce the working draft of the elaborated UN System Strategic Plan. A UN System Strategic Planning retreat in February 2001 is expected to finalize the plan that will be submitted to the PCB Meeting in June 2001.

10. There are four key characteristics of the UN System Strategic Plan and the way in which it is being developed:

- i. All UNAIDS Cosponsors and other relevant UN agencies, programmes and bodies contribute towards the plan through the development of individual institutional plans, within the context provided by the Framework for Global Leadership on HIV/AIDS;
- ii. The contributions of UN agencies, programmes and other UN bodies are primarily forward-looking rather than describing present activities;
- iii. The development of the plan provides an opportunity for UN agencies, programmes and other UN bodies to share information and identify new partnerships and linkages; and
- iv. The role of the UNAIDS Secretariat is to assist UN agencies, programmes and other UN bodies in developing their contributions and putting the overall plan together.

Furthermore, during the preparatory phase, PCB members are also invited to comment on the plan and interact with focal points responsible for its development.

IV. Relationship between the UN System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS and the UNAIDS Unified Budget and Workplan

11. The UN System Strategic Plan provides the overall context for the next two UNAIDS Unified Budgets and Workplans (for 2002-2003 and 2004-2005). The Unified Budget and Workplan will include a more detailed description of the work of the UNAIDS Secretariat and the Cosponsors' HIV/AIDS-related activities, as well as expected results and indicators to monitor progress. The development of the UNAIDS Unified Budget and Workplan for 2002-2003 will proceed in parallel with the finalization of the UN System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS and will be presented at the June 2001 PCB meeting for approval.

V. Next Steps

- The working draft of the UN System Strategic Plan will be made available on the controlled access Website for review and comments by PCB members and observers in December 2000.
- The Framework for Global Leadership on HIV/AIDS will be presented to the December 2000 PCB for approval. A draft of the UN System Strategic Plan will be available for discussion at the meeting.
- A UN System Strategic Planning retreat in February 2001 will finalize the Strategic Plan that will be submitted to the PCB in June.
- The UN System Strategic Plan 2001-2005 will be presented to the June 2001 PCB for approval along with the UNAIDS Unified Budget and Workplan for 2002-2003.

VI. Conclusions

12. Over the last two years, and the last year in particular, there has been considerable intensification of the strategic planning efforts of UNAIDS Cosponsors and Secretariat. In addition, significant progress has been made in putting in place mechanisms required to maintain and expand an ongoing strategy dialogue among the many partners of UNAIDS. This work will need to be further intensified in the coming months in order to arrive at a relevant UN System Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS for the years 2001-2005 as well as a Unified Budget and Workplan for UNAIDS for 2002-2003.