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PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

Sixteenth meeting

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 14-15 December 2004

Provisional agenda item 5.2:

Progress on the “Three Ones”

Executive Summary

“Three Ones” principles for the coordination of national HIV and AIDS responses:

- One agreed AIDS action framework that provides the basis for coordinating the work of all partners.
- One national AIDS coordinating authority, with a broad-based multisectoral mandate.
- One agreed AIDS country-level monitoring and evaluation system.

Action required at this meeting

The Programme Coordinating Board is requested to take note of the attached overview highlighting global progress on the “Three Ones”.

Introduction

1. The “Three Ones” principles, endorsed in Washington on 25 April 2004 by UNAIDS in collaboration with national AIDS programmes, civil society representatives, bilateral donors and the Global Fund, reinforce international stakeholders’ commitment to harmonize national AIDS responses¹.
2. The “Three Ones” principles represent a sharpening of the UNAIDS strategy for promoting and supporting greater coordination of a more inclusive national AIDS response. The Washington agreement specifically mandated UNAIDS to facilitate, monitor and measure the application of the “Three Ones”.
3. Civil society engagement is essential to the successful application of the “Three Ones”. To achieve this, UNAIDS will continue to work with civil society to make progress in the harmonization of the response to AIDS and promote greater involvement of groups most likely to be exposed to HIV. UNAIDS will also ensure that civil society is an active partner in the global, regional and national “Three Ones” principles application processes.

Role of UNAIDS

4. By promoting the “Three Ones” principles as called for in the Washington agreement, UNAIDS aims to support national ownership of the AIDS response, facilitate the participation of key stakeholders and ensure transparency and accountability of resources and investments.
5. As a follow-up to the 25 April 2004 Washington consultation, bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and national leaders, recommended that UNAIDS produce an annual report and facilitate action-oriented policy dialogue on the “Three Ones” progress.
6. UNAIDS plans to co-host the first “Three Ones” high-level global review meeting in mid-April 2005 to launch the “Three Ones” Annual Progress Report. It is likely that this meeting will be planned around the IMF/World Bank Washington 2005 Spring meetings. The progress report will include issues emerging from country-level mapping that illustrate key challenges and lessons learned from the early implementation of the “Three Ones”. In the longer term and through 2005, UNAIDS will engage the support of governments, civil society, the private sector, donors and multilaterals in the preparation of the “Three Ones” country case studies, including the identification of key challenges and lessons learned and follow-up actions.

Country Update

7. The “Three Ones” principles and the Washington 2004 agreement were introduced to nearly all professional field staff at the UNAIDS Global Staff Meeting in May 2004. Following this, UNAIDS Country Coordinators and other key staff introduced the “Three Ones” principles and the Washington agreement to stakeholders at country level and are moving this agenda forward. Some examples:
 - In **Kenya**, for example, a Harmonization Task Force has been established under the leadership of the National AIDS Control Council. An agreement has been reached to develop a database of more than 2000 community-based organizations to

¹The “Three Ones” are fully compatible with the February 2003 ‘Rome Declaration on Harmonization’ and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) guidelines for ‘Harmonising Donor Practices for Effective Aid Delivery’
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/0/48/20896122.pdf>

better coordinate donor support. Also, the 2005–2010 national strategic plan will use the “Three Ones” as its guiding principles, which should see the HIV/AIDS action framework harmonized with the government’s budget process and its medium-term expenditure framework.

- In the **Philippines**, the “Three Ones” approach was presented in June at a plenary meeting of the Philippine National AIDS Council. There was a positive feedback and the Council’s Chair, the Secretary of Health, expressed a desire to see the principles operationalized.
- The **Uganda** AIDS Commission (UAC) announced in September that the third and final element of its national coordination triad—a national Monitoring and Evaluation framework—is ready for implementation. Regional and district visits, coordinated by UAC, covering all 56 districts of Uganda in a massive “Three Ones” mobilization exercise were expected to be completed by the end of November 2004, in time for the country's third Annual AIDS Forum on 29-30 November in Kampala. The next important response key result, with substantive UN support, will be the endorsement of the first official Uganda National AIDS Policy that is fully anchored in the coordination principles of the “Three Ones”.
- In **Ethiopia**, the World Bank and UNAIDS are co-sponsoring a consultation to facilitate action-oriented policy dialogue on the “Three Ones” that will take place in Addis Ababa, in February 2005.
- In **Ukraine**, UNAIDS brought the “Three Ones” to the attention of the Minister of Health, who was searching for ways to unify donor mechanisms and strengthen coordination. As a result, the Minister of Health has formally requested UNAIDS to send a team of consultants to: map the current international support for HIV and AIDS work in the Ukraine; develop models to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Health in operational coordination and programme management; and develop models for a high-level multisectoral coordination authority under the leadership of the Ukraine government with the involvement of all relevant government sectors, civil society and international partners.

8. The five above examples are a sample of the “Three Ones”-related work ongoing in many countries. Efforts are also being made at the regional level. For example, UNAIDS is working with the African Union (AU) to strengthen AIDS Watch Africa as a peer-review mechanism, increasing the ability of AU member states to promote adherence to the “Three Ones” principles among their bilateral and multilateral partners. In late 2004 and throughout 2005, this country- and regional-level work will be guided by a UNAIDS global action plan structured around:
 - strengthening UNAIDS capacity at country level to promote the application of the “Three Ones”;
 - country-level mapping of the current status of the “Three Ones”;
 - creating ownership of the “Three Ones” within countries;
 - applying the “Three Ones” principles at country level; and
 - monitoring and reporting of “Three Ones”-related progress.
9. As part of this action plan, the headquarters of the UNAIDS Secretariat is offering intensified support on the application of the “Three Ones” to a limited number of countries. This effort should (i) strengthen UNAIDS’ role as a facilitator of the “Three Ones” and (ii) document progress made in the application of the “Three Ones” principles in different regions and country situations so that key challenges can be identified and lessons learned can be applied more broadly. This interdepartmental effort will include

mapping of coordination structures, inclusive reviews of the mapping to forge consensus on a way forward, intensified promotion of joint participatory reviews of national HIV/AIDS frameworks, targeted efforts to create synergies among existing country-level coordination mechanisms, assistance to national management of donor programming visits, intensified assistance to the establishment of national monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems, and the production of case studies and an annual Progress Report. Indicators to track country-level progress on the “Three Ones” have also been included in reporting templates that are completed annually by UNAIDS Country Coordinators. The next round of annual reports are due in January 2005, in time for the resulting analysis to be included in the “Three Ones” progress report.

Monitoring and Evaluation

10. In response to the need to strengthen national M&E systems and to support the concept of a common M&E system in accordance with the “Three Ones” principles, UNAIDS has conducted case studies in Asia and Africa. To ensure geographical representation, account for differences in context and determine the ease of M&E implementation in various settings, three countries, **Ethiopia** (high prevalence), **Cambodia** (decreasing prevalence) and the **Philippines** (low prevalence) were selected. Preliminary results of the case studies were discussed at the Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group meeting in October 2004 and lessons generated for use by other countries. The lessons will be consolidated into a Best Practice Publication available on the UNAIDS website in 2005. These case studies will demonstrate in a practical way the manner in which countries are establishing a common M&E framework and the value of this structure as opposed to multiple parallel M&E data collection systems.

Civil Society

11. UNAIDS will continue to engage civil society at the global, regional and national levels. UNAIDS has initiated discussions with some global civil society entities to build a civil society advocacy constituency to shape, support and promote the application of the “Three Ones” principles. UNAIDS hopes to encourage civil society to undertake “Three Ones” civil society regional consultations in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. UNAIDS will also ensure that there is civil society involved in the application of the “Three Ones” at country level. In the context of the upcoming country case studies, UNAIDS will seek to engage civil society in the identification of “Three Ones” key challenges and lessons learned that can be applied more broadly. In particular we look to civil society for guidance on monitoring and providing guidance on how to assess inclusiveness in the implementation of the “Three Ones”. Finally UNAIDS is in the process of developing a targeted plan for engagement of civil society at highest level.

Financing the Action Framework

12. UNAIDS believes that an adequate AIDS response requires effective budgetary and financial management systems that are nimble, flexible and accountable to all stakeholders. UNAIDS, therefore, works with partners to strengthen the “Three Ones” through the development of a common financing framework, as part of the one national AIDS action framework, in countries where this is both feasible and where there is national and donor support. A common financing framework can accommodate different financing instruments that will vary from country to country.