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**21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board**  
**Geneva, Switzerland**  
**17-18 December 2007**

*Provisional agenda item 4:*

**UNAIDS collaboration with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS,  
Tuberculosis and Malaria**

## Background

1. This paper is in follow up to agenda item 4.4 *UNAIDS Collaboration with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria* and the recommendation 14.1 adopted by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) at its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting (Geneva, 25-27 June 2007).

### Recommendation 14.1 of the 20<sup>th</sup> PCB meeting

14.1 *Requests* UNAIDS to work with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to revise and update their Memorandum of Understanding redefining and, in light of the changed landscape, updating the areas and modalities of their cooperation and present this to their respective boards for approval. Equally it will be essential that they develop a shared follow-up system for the purposes of accountability;

## Context

2. At the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, UNAIDS presented an update on UNAIDS' collaboration with the Global Fund<sup>1</sup>. This presentation highlighted the ongoing collaboration between UNAIDS and the Global Fund particularly in the areas of strategic analysis and policy advice, technical support through the grant life cycle, monitoring and evaluation and resource mobilisation and advocacy.
3. The paper outlined the need for further strengthening of the collaboration between the Global Fund and UNAIDS and requested the PCB to mandate UNAIDS to '*work with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to revise and update their Memorandum of Understanding redefining and, in light of the changed landscape, updating the areas and modalities of their cooperation and present this to their respective boards for approval. Equally it will be essential that they develop a shared follow-up system for the purposes of accountability*'.

## Progress to date

4. In follow up to the PCB recommendation, UNAIDS and the Global Fund Secretariat have agreed to develop the new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) based on an updated analysis of the current situation and a clear definition of needs.
5. UNAIDS and the Global Fund Secretariat have held two consultations to discuss the revision of the MoU including the scope of the review, defining its key principles and a roadmap for its revision.

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<sup>1</sup> See *UNAIDS collaboration with the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria*  
[http://data.unaids.org/pub/InformationNote/2007/collaboration\\_with\\_global\\_fund\\_to\\_fight\\_aids\\_tb\\_malaria\\_item4\\_4\\_en.pdf](http://data.unaids.org/pub/InformationNote/2007/collaboration_with_global_fund_to_fight_aids_tb_malaria_item4_4_en.pdf)

6. Focal points have been appointed by the Global Fund and UNAIDS to facilitate coordination, communication and effective follow-up of the PCB recommendation. The meetings helped establish key principles of engagement including:
  - That the Global Fund would enter into a single MoU with the Joint Programme on HIV related issues (however, Global Fund will have separate MoUs with WHO on Malaria and TB). The new MoU will also build on existing MoUs and letters of agreement between the Global Fund and Cosponsors.
  - The MoU will outline the broad areas of collaboration, principles of engagement and modalities of cooperation taking into account the changed landscape and scale of support.
  - A separate detailed 'plan' of work that articulates the specific support that each UNAIDS Cosponsor and the Secretariat will provide (taking into account the UNAIDS division of labour) will be developed.
  - Specific expectations of the Global Fund and mechanisms for collaboration and information sharing would also be articulated.
  - A clear accountability framework and mechanism for periodic review of implementation of the MoU (and the 'plan') will be developed.
  - A clear communication strategy on the operationalising of the MoU would also be developed jointly by the Global Fund and UNAIDS.
7. In preparation for the revision of the MoU, the Global Fund Secretariat and UNAIDS undertook a review of the current MoU to identify areas where the MoU has delivered, key gaps and priority areas for the future. A number of key documents and processes, including an internal review of lessons on the role of UNAIDS in providing support to countries in Global Fund grant proposal development and the grant life cycle, were reviewed.
8. UNAIDS also organized consultations at regional level to better understand the key challenges at the country level in scaling up support to making the money work. Comments and feedback received from these consultations were shared with the Global Fund Secretariat. The reviews highlighted the need for clearly defining expectations and roles for the UN system and Global Fund at all levels, and for strengthening coordination between them (e.g. collaboration between Fund Portfolio managers and UNAIDS Country Coordinators and Joint UN Teams on AIDS in country, access to information, regional meetings hosted by the Global Fund etc.)
9. Similarly, based on internal reviews, the Global Fund Secretariat provided feedback to UNAIDS on the current MoU and priorities for the revised MoU.
10. External reviews of key mechanisms for scaling up technical support (for example the Technical Support Facilities) included assessment of the technical support provided to grant implementation and lessons for further scale up which will be incorporated into the proposed operational 'plan'.

11. A working group consisting of UNAIDS Cosponsors, key staff from the UNAIDS Regional Support Teams, UNAIDS Country Coordinators in selected countries and the Secretariat in Geneva has been established to consolidate the lessons to date in collaboration with the Global Fund, and to work closely with the Global Fund Secretariat to coordinate the revision of the MoU.
12. The MoU will focus on strengthening current roles and expanding the scale and scope of UN support to the Global Fund grants taking into account the rapid scale up of funding and the changing context of the AIDS response. The collaboration between UNAIDS and the Global Fund will build on current successes and will draw on the UN system's comparative advantages and priorities (examples include: strengthening gender as part of the Global Fund policies and support to countries; convening country partners at regional level etc.). The MoU is expected to have the following key components
  - Background
  - Purpose
  - Partnership Framework
  - Principles of Cooperation
  - Areas of Collaboration including
    - Strategic Analysis and Policy Advice
    - Resource Mobilization and Advocacy
    - Coordination and Scaled up Technical Support
    - Capacity Development and Institutional Strengthening
    - Monitoring and Evaluation
  - Operational Arrangements and Accountability Framework
  - Operational Plan (as an annex)
13. Based on the priorities agreed as part of the MoU, a two year operational 'plan' that captures the key actions by Cosponsors and the Secretariat and the Global Fund will be ready in early 2008.

### **Action for the Programme Coordinating Board**

The PCB is requested to take note of the progress to date.