

**Independent Review:  
NGO/Civil Society Participation in the  
UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board**

**31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board  
11-13 December 2012**

# Mandate and purpose

- **Mandate:**

*“9.3. Agrees to review the participation of the NGO Programme Coordinating Board Delegation in the Programme Coordinating Board within no more than five years.”*

20<sup>th</sup> Programme Coordinating Board Meeting, June 2007

- **Purpose:**

- To assess the NGO Delegation’s participation in and contribution to the UNAIDS PCB in 2007-2012.
- To recommend forward-looking actions for increasing the engagement and impact of civil society voices in the PCB.

# Methodology

- 1. Key stakeholder interviews:** 33 interviews with Member States (9), Cosponsors (4), UNAIDS Secretariat (5), past/present NGO Delegates and the Communications Facility (7) and wider civil society (8).
- 2. Focus group discussion:** 6 members of current NGO Delegation.
- 3. E-survey among wider civil society:**
  - 318 responses (161 in English, 72 Russian, 45 Spanish and 40 French).
  - Range of CSOs, including from Eastern Europe and Central Asia (23%), Western and Central Africa (16%) and Latin America (15%).
  - 18% not aware of NGO Delegation; 37% aware, but not involved.
- 4. Desk review:** >70 documents about PCB, NGO Delegation and UNAIDS.
- 5. Observation of the context:** telephone briefing and internal NGO Delegation communication. (Limited due to timeframe).

# Findings

- **Theme 1:** Official structures, processes and roles that relate to NGO/civil society participation in the PCB.
- **Theme 2:** Composition, selection criteria and process for the NGO representatives.
- **Theme 3:** Systems for communication, consultation and accountability among the NGO representatives.
- **Theme 4:** Capacity and resources for NGO/civil society participation in the PCB.
- **Theme 5:** Involvement of people living with HIV and other marginalized groups within NGO/civil society participation in the PCB.

# Conclusions (1-3)

- 1. Civil society participation continues to be universally welcomed as an important principle and valued asset of the UNAIDS PCB.**
- 2. Civil society participation has maintained high profile on the PCB agenda. The resulting decision points – notably at the 20th, 23rd and 25th Meetings - remain valid. However, while some have been effectively implemented and led to concrete results, others have received only partial or no follow-up.**
- 3. Since 2006/7, the NGO Delegation has developed a stronger identity – with a strategy focused on championing the rights and needs of people living with HIV and key affected communities.**

# Conclusions (4-6)

- 4. The NGO Delegation plays a vital watchdog role - monitoring and, as necessary, pushing issues and agenda items of relevance to civil society that risk slipping off the agenda.**
- 5. The NGO Delegation has made an increasingly important contribution to the overall strategic and administrative frameworks of UNAIDS.**
- 6. The NGO Delegation has significantly improved the scale, quality and, ultimately, influence of its work – through enhanced systems, an expanded evidence-base and stronger cohesion. This reflects both the commitment of its members and the work of the Communications Facility – which has proven a sound investment.**

# Conclusions (7-9)

- 7. Aspects of the NGO Delegation's work still need further development, notably their outreach and accountability to wider regional civil society and some key constituencies.**
- 8. The NGO Delegation has a more difficult - but also more crucial - role than ever within the changing and challenging environment for HIV. It must take proactive and strategic action to meet that challenge and play a catalytic and leadership role within the PCB.**
- 9. Going forward, the NGO Delegation needs to strengthen its strategic partnerships with other leaders in civil society, both within and external to the HIV field.**

# Recommendations

- Recommendations for **all key stakeholders** in the PCB.
- Recommendations do not require additional **financial resources**.



# **Review of the Recommendations by the PCB Bureau acting as Oversight Committee**

The steps followed by the PCB Bureau acting as Oversight Committee for this review:

- Guided the review from the start;
- Developed Terms of Reference for the review and selected the independent consultant;
- Adopted the the inception report;
- Elaborated on and approved the list of interviewees;
- Commented on the report at different stages;

## Review of the Recommendations by the PCB Bureau acting as Oversight Committee (cont.)

The PCB Bureau (OVC):

- Accepted the independent review published on the UNAIDS PCB website as a conference room paper;
- Grouped the 13 recommendations presented by the consultant into four draft decision points for PCB consideration;
- The decision points are grouped around actionable recommendations for: Member States, UNAIDS (Secretariat and Cosponsors) and PCB NGO Delegation.