

The "Three Ones"

Principles for the coordination of national AIDS responses

On 25 April 2004, UNAIDS, the United Kingdom and the United States co-hosted a high-level meeting at which key donors reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening national AIDS responses led by the affected countries themselves.

They endorsed the "Three Ones" principles, to achieve the most effective and efficient use of resources, and to ensure rapid action and results-based management:

- One agreed HIV/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 country-level Monitoring and Evaluation System.

There has been a marked shift in the global response to the complex AIDS crisis, which continues to worsen. National responses are broader and stronger, and have improved access to financial resources and commodities.

As well as increased commitments by affected countries themselves, the advent of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the new AIDS programmes of the World Bank, expanding commitments from donor countries (especially the United States) and the work of private sector foundations has seen the total amount of funding on AIDS increase from US\$2.8 billion in 2002 to an estimated US\$10 billion available in 2007. While more resources are needed, there is an urgent need for greater support and collaboration with heavily-affected countries and to avoid duplication and fragmentation.

It is this challenge that the "Three Ones" are specifically designed to address. Built on lessons learned over two decades, the "Three Ones" will help improve the ability of donors and developing countries to work more effectively together, on a country-by-country basis.

