

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE ANNUAL REPORT ON EVALUATION

Additional document for this item: Evaluation report (UNAIDS/PCB (57)/25.33)

Action required at this meeting—the Programme Coordinating Board is invited to:

- *Recall* decision 7.5 of the 53rd meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board approving the UNAIDS 2024–2025 Evaluation Plan, as well as decision point 8.7 of the 55th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board requesting the next annual report to be presented to the Programme Coordinating Board in December 2025;
- *Take note* of the 2025 annual report and the summary of the main findings from the evaluations undertaken in 2025;
- *Take note* of the management response to the 2025 annual report on evaluation;
- *Approve* the 2026 Evaluation Plan (UNAIDS/PCB (57)/25.33) as endorsed by the Expert Advisory Committee on evaluation;
- *Recall* decision point 9.3 of the 47th session of the Programming Coordinating Board on the importance of adequately resourcing and staffing the evaluation function in accordance with the evaluation policy approved by the Board in decision point 6.6 of its 44th session, taking into account the financial situation of the organization;
- Recalling decision point 7.7 from the 55th PCB meeting, *agree* that the Expert Advisory Committee on evaluation approved by the PCB in 2025, as detailed in Annex 1 of the 2025 annual report on evaluation and evaluation plan 2026 (UNAIDS/PCB (57)/25.33), is reappointed for a second term;
- Recalling decision point 8.6 from the 55th PCB meeting, *take note*, in accordance with provision 73 of the evaluation policy, that the UN Evaluation Group peer review will be postponed to 2026; and
- *Look forward* to the annual report on evaluation to be presented to the Programme Coordinating Board in December 2026;

Cost implications for the implementation of the decisions: *none*

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Introduction

1. The UNAIDS management expresses appreciation to the Evaluation Office for its work in implementing the 2024–2025 Evaluation Plan. Management acknowledges the sustained efforts of the Office to produce high-quality and relevant evaluation evidence even during a challenging period. The Evaluation Office, together with the Cosponsor Evaluation Group, and supported by the Expert Advisory Committee, plays an important role in deepening an evaluation and learning culture in UNAIDS, and in continually strengthening the Joint Programme's contribution to country implementation of the Global AIDS Strategy.
2. UNAIDS has worked closely with the Evaluation Office to follow up on the completed evaluations, development of management responses to evaluations, and implementation of recommendations.
3. Management agrees with the postponement of the professional peer review of the UNAIDS evaluation function to 2026. This approach will contribute to system-wide coherence and learning from the experiences of peers in strengthening the evaluation function in UNAIDS.
4. Two reports have been received from the Evaluation Office: A joint evaluation with the System-Wide Evaluation Office concerning the contribution of the Joint Programme to UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and an Evaluation of Multi-country Offices and HIV Advisors as alternatives to UNAIDS Country Offices.
5. Management takes note that the third evaluation, on the role of the Joint Programme in sustaining the response to HIV, is in the drafting stage and is expected to be finalized by the end of December 2025. It also notes that two evaluations could not be initiated because of budget constraints.
6. Management welcomes the innovative approach followed by the Evaluation Office in response to these constraints by integrating questions from the two remaining evaluations (pertaining to UNAIDS partnerships with the Global Fund, and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, and sustaining impact on HIV through community systems) into the evaluation on the role of the Joint Programme in sustaining the response to HIV.
7. Management responses for the two evaluation reports are being developed in consultation with the partners involved.
8. Management agrees with the proposed adaptation of the Evaluation Function to the New Organizational Context for 2026.
9. Management agrees with the proposed 2026 Evaluation Plan and the proposal to align the Evaluation Plan to be approved by the PCB with the one-year transition UBRAF workplan and budget for 2026. It looks forward to working with the evaluation team on the proposed evaluations for 2026. Management has also worked closely with the team on follow-up to previously completed evaluations. Management responses to the evaluations completed in 2024–2025 were developed and are being implemented as outlined in Annex 2 of the annual report on evaluation (UNAIDS/PCB (55)24.30).

10. Management welcomes the moves to identify, synthesize and disseminate lessons from the evaluations and develop innovative products that contribute to knowledge management and the use of artificial intelligence.

Proposed decision points

The Programme Coordinating Board is invited to:

11. *Recall* decision point 7.5 of the 53rd meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board approving the UNAIDS 2024–2025 Evaluation Plan, as well as decision point 8.7 of the 55th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board requesting the next annual report to be presented to the Programme Coordinating Board in December 2025;
12. *Take note* of the 2025 Annual Report and the summary of the main findings from the evaluations undertaken in 2025;
13. *Take note* of the management response to the 2025 annual report on evaluation;
14. *Approve* the 2026 Evaluation Plan (UNAIDS/PCB (57)/25.33) as endorsed by the Expert Advisory Committee on evaluation;
15. *Recall* decision point 9.3 of the 47th session of the Board on the importance of adequately resourcing and staffing the evaluation function in accordance with the evaluation policy approved by the Programme Coordinating Board in its decision point 6.6 of its 44th session, taking into account the financial situation of the organization;
16. Recalling decision point 7.7 from the 55th PCB meeting, *agree* that the Expert Advisory Committee on evaluation approved by the PCB in 2025, as detailed in Annex 1 of the 2025 annual report on evaluation and evaluation plan 2026 (UNAIDS/PCB (57)/25.33), is reappointed for a second term;
17. Recalling decision point 8.6 from the 55th PCB meeting, *take note*, in accordance with provision 73 of the evaluation policy, that the UN Evaluation Group peer review will be postponed to 2026;
18. *Look forward* to the annual report on evaluation to be presented to the Programme Coordinating Board in December 2026;

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