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CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

USER UNIT: RMA

REFERENCE NUMBER: EOI-2012-08

DESCRIPTION: Membership in the Monitoring and Evaluation

Reference Group (MERG) strategic body

POSTING DATE: 2-April-2012

DEADLINE DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION: 30-April-2012

Context:

The UNAIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group (MERG) was established in 1998 to advise UNAIDS on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) at all levels of the Program. An independent assessment of the Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group (MERG) was conducted in 2011. The recommendations called for a new MERG that is an independent global forum able to respond to the changing global HIV and AIDS environment. The attached Terms of Reference operationalize the assessment's recommendations. It details the mandate, structure and membership of the new MERG.

The MERG is an independent global body of experts that lead M&E thinking and provides advice in matters related to M&E of the global AIDS response. Its key functions are a) to set the M&E agenda in a changing global HIV and AIDS environment and b) harmonize M&E approaches of UNAIDS and its partners.

The new MERG's structure consists of a "Strategic Body" which brings together influential partners, policy experts, and key thinkers in the global HIV/AIDS M&E arena. The MERG is limited to a maximum of fourteen (14) members who are invited or hold ex officio seats. This inspired group will be drawn from academia, private sector, multilateral and bilateral agencies, donor and recipient countries, non-governmental organizations and civil society. It will be an independent group that through its credibility (composition and work) is a preferred partner for the main HIV/AIDS decision makers.

Invited members may hold a maximum of ten (10) seats in the MERG, including representatives from low and middle income countries.

MERG members should have a wide range of skills, knowledge and competencies as detailed in the MERG Terms of Reference, and shall be guided by the following criteria:

- Credibility and independence
- Knowledge of HIV/AIDS and its multisectoral and multidisciplinary dimensions
- Knowledge of UNAIDS and its activities
- Commitment and availability to participate in meetings
- Absence of conflict of interest
- Geographical representation
- Gender balance

The disciplines considered essential for the MERG include evaluation, monitoring, public health (including epidemiology/biostatistics), social sciences (including behavioural science, health economics, health policy, demography, operations research, etc.), program management including health management information systems, and issues related to development, such as sector wide approaches and harmonization.

If you think you fulfill the criteria for membership in the MERG, please fill out the attached application, and submit the form along with a current CV to merg@unaids.org. The deadline for application is **April 30, 2012**.

An independent selection panel will review the applications and make the final selection of the MERG members.