

Comments on UNAIDS 16th PCB document¹:

Intensifying HIV Prevention – Foundations for a Strategy Framework

Few remarks can be added to this comprehensive, well-written strategic document. At the risk of repetitiveness and platitudes, one might venture to emphasize even more the need to integrate HIV control into development and human rights issues. Furthermore, the possible behavioural risks associated with enhanced treatment should be explicitly tackled. Thus, the following amendments are suggested:

Page 5: Reducing Vulnerability: at the end, a sentence could be added on workplace issues and especially on the need to redress the historical, institutional segregation of men from their family in some workplace situations such as the mining industry in southern Africa.

Page 6: Specific objectives:

Add an objective or integrate in second objective: redefining HIV prevention in the context of sexual and reproductive rights

These objectives will be achieved through:

Second bullet: building on the synergies between prevention and treatment whilst acknowledging the need to surmount behavioural complacency. The second part of the sentence on scale up can be moved to bullet seven.

Fourth bullet: rephrase this sentence whereby services are delivered to the individual, families and the community to an active form whereby these same individuals, families and communities become AIDS competent

Seventh bullet: Scale up comprehensive approaches of successful HIV prevention and treatment programmes and policies towards reducing risk, vulnerability and impact within the national poverty reduction strategies. Reference could also be made to lifting macro-economic barriers.

Page 7: Barriers

In second paragraph add socio-economic as follows:addressing AIDS: *socio-economic and* cultural barriers in responding to the needs

Box 1

Add: failure to include HIV control adequately into the country poverty reduction strategies

Page 8: Maximizing synergy:

Add a paragraph on the need to be vigilant against behavioural complacency after the introduction of expanded treatment and which could thus reverse the synergy between prevention and treatment.

¹ From different Belgian stakeholders (DGDC, NGO's etc.) – April 4, 2005

Meeting the needs of the most vulnerable:

Expand the last paragraph showing that sources of stigma, discrimination and violence reinforce each other, such as those related to AIDS, gender, poverty and socially excluded groups. In last sentence, wife inheritance could be given as an example.

Page 9: Box 2:

First bullet: add at the end: *and sexual and reproductive rights*.