

Geneva, April 28, 2005

Comments from Switzerland
28 April 2005

We would like to thank UNAIDS for the production of this new document which is a very positive development compared with the previous "Intensifying HIV Prevention - Foundations for a Strategy Framework" text presented at the 16th PCB. We find it richer, making it stronger. In our views it has now incorporated most of the remarks and conclusions reached in Montego Bay.

Among others we gladly note that

- an efficient and sustainable response to the pandemics needs both prevention programs and measures **and** antiretroviral treatments
- activities, also those in the prevention field, should be evidence-based
- testing and counselling should be on a voluntary basis
- other STD early detection and treatment as part of the HIV-AIDS prevention campaign.

Specific comments for this Strategy improvement

- The policy Paper focuses mainly on epidemiological and public health aspects. But **the underlying causes of the HIV/AIDS epidemic**, such as **poverty** and **gender inequalities** should be better emphasised.
- The Paper focuses on treatment and prevention. However, the need for prevention to take into account **risk, vulnerability and impact** (in the form of a comprehensive response) should be better stressed throughout the document.
- The impact of HIV/Aids on women and girls (the **feminisation of HIV/Aids**), the role of the **Global Coalition on Women and Aids**, the need for a **gender sensitive prevention response** are missing and ought to be stressed in the document.
- **p. 6 , Obstacles:** poverty, gender inequalities, stigma and discrimination and human rights violations are completely missing and they should be mentioned.
- **p. 7, first par. :** the Cairo agenda ought to be mentioned too.
- We regret that **abstinence and delay of sexual debut** are mentioned **before the use of condoms** (p. 9 lower part) even if we agree that they have to be mentioned for various reasons. We see some merit in letting the possibility open to slightly adjust programs to cultural and religious sensitivity provided this is not detrimental to the core message or used to spread ideological messages.
- **p. 9, Key principles for success:** an additional bullet should be added in order to stress the need to **tackle gender inequalities**
- **p. 9, Comprehensive programming:** among the options, it is important to include, for example, *information, education and life skills development*
- **p. 11, 4th bullet:** "*lack of political will, poverty and development, and gender inequality (...)*"
- **p.11: 5th bullet:** "*encourage research and development and subsequent access to vaccines and microbicides and other female controlled prevention methods (i.e. female condom)*"
- **p. 13, Respect fro human rights:** the importance for protecting and promoting **women's rights, sexual and reproductive rights, child rights, inheritance rights** should be spelled out.
- **p. 13, Key principle for success:** two bullets could be added: one highlighting the need to **"contribute to the reduction of violence against women"**, the other stressing the importance to **"focus on the most vulnerable, such as women and children"**.
- It would be important for the document to provide and require systematic gender disaggregated information

We may come back with more comments either at the May 2 meeting or later at the PCB itself.

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Cc : Friends of UNAIDS Colleagues