



UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

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**Conference Room Paper : Report of the UNAIDS Financing
Dialogue**

SUMMARY OF KEY MESSAGES ARISING FROM THE DIALOGUE

A number of key messages arose from the Dialogue:

- a. Recognition of the catalytic role that UNAIDS has played throughout the AIDS epidemic including through political leadership, advocacy and the mobilization of resources: continued joint programming is fundamentally necessary for the post-2015 phase of the AIDS response;
- b. That the ongoing need for shared responsibility includes both global resources and increasing domestic support for the response, and stronger efforts – led by the Joint Programme – to increase efficiencies and reduce costs across all resource streams;
- c. Success in the goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 depends on our ability to take advantage of the current fragile window of opportunity (2015-2020) to Fast Track the response, to continue to use HIV as an entry point for social transformation, and to ensure its positioning in the Post 2015 agenda: complacency must be avoided and momentum maintained to effect lasting change;
- d. Civil society resourcing shortfalls are an important concern and collective work is needed to help identify gaps and ensure a continuing social movement for HIV;
- e. Recognition of the relatively small size of the Unified Budget Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) and its multiplied catalytic impact in the global HIV agenda, mobilizing country support, and influencing the use of other resource streams such as the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund);
- f. UNAIDS financial situation is currently healthy but there are vulnerabilities that must be taken into account and addressed: the sustainability, diversity of sources and predictability of financing are fundamental to results, including that the UBRAF is fully funded; and
- g. That there is broad support for continued discussion on the resourcing of AIDS and the Joint Programme through a multi-stakeholder process and the need for UNAIDS to better communicate around results with messaging tailored to different audiences and stakeholders.

BACKGROUND

1. This conference room paper summarizes the key issues discussed at the UNAIDS Financing Dialogue held in Geneva on 12 November, 2014 in follow up to the request of the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB)(34th meeting, July 2014) to UNAIDS to hold a Financing Dialogue¹.

¹ Decision 7.10 of the 34th PCB meeting: *Requests UNAIDS to hold a Financing Dialogue aimed at ensuring predictable and sustained funding, the efficient management of funds and transparency for effective implementation of the UBRAF within the overall AIDS response. The Financing Dialogue should take place before the end of 2014 to discuss programmatic and financial accountability and reporting, to review the*

2. The original mandate for the Financing Dialogue is reflected in the UN General Assembly Resolution on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (67/226), which was adopted on 21 December 2012. The QCPR resolution requested each UN organization to hold a financing dialogue with its partners and emphasized that the focus should include attention to: enhancing overall funding, in particular core resources; improving the predictability and quality of resources; and, ensuring full cost recovery.
3. The Dialogue was chaired by Ambassador John Quinn, Permanent Representative of Australia to the UN in Geneva and Chair of the PCB.
4. The specific objectives of the one-day consultation were to:
 - a. Showcase the relevance of the AIDS response and Joint Programme for the post 2015 period;
 - b. Seek support for continued, adequate and predictable funding of UNAIDS, and broaden UNAIDS donor base; and
 - c. Demonstrate efficiency, transparency and accountability in the management of funds.
5. The multi-stakeholder dialogue was well attended by representatives of Member States, including at the ambassadorial level, the PCB NGO delegation, and cosponsors.
6. The summary below outlines the key issues discussed and conclusions from the Financing Dialogue.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OVERALL CONTEXT OF THE AIDS RESPONSE

7. Ambassador Quinn opened the Dialogue by providing the background, purpose and expectations of the day-long consultation. He paid tribute to the work of UNAIDS acknowledging its creative and innovative work towards achieving the bold vision of the Three Zeros. He reiterated Australia's commitment to sustain support to the AIDS response and to UNAIDS as key to ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030.
8. Mr Michel Sidibe, UNAIDS Executive Director, underlined the tremendous progress made in the global response to AIDS: new HIV infections in children have declined by 58% since 2001; AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 35% since their peak in 2005 thanks to an unprecedented scale-up of treatment, now reaching nearly 14 million people; and new infections in adults have fallen by 38%. He underlined that the pace of progress has increased in the last five years, and that there is an historic opportunity ahead to fast-track the end the AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. This would not only save 21 million lives and avert 28 million new infections, but would offer a 15-fold economic return on investments. He underlined the financial and human cost of missing this opportunity.

9. The Executive Director emphasized the timeliness and topicality of the Financing Dialogue as it provided a platform to showcase the important impact of shared responsibility and global solidarity on the AIDS response in recent years. He welcomed the unprecedented social movement around HIV; including exponential mobilization of resources that led to stronger political engagement, transformation of science and activism, and underlined the key catalytic role that UNAIDS had played in this movement. Since 2009, laws, science and innovation have revolutionized the treatment approach through the creation of a fixed combination dose which shifts patient prescription from 18 pills a day to just one, and the civil, private and science communities have come together to change the course of the epidemic and accelerate the response, and financial resources were mobilized in an unprecedented way increasing from US\$ 90 million to US\$19 billion in 2013.
10. The Executive Director said that significant global political mobilization had opened the human rights debate, leading to recognition that ending AIDS will not be possible without ensuring human rights protection at the core of all programmes and efforts. UNAIDS strategic information has led to targeted investments with high efficiency and efficacy of impact. Such transformational investment have also brought better integration of HIV treatment, prevention, care and support with other health services such as maternal health, child health, tuberculosis, Hepatitis C, cervical cancer etc. The AIDS response brought a new perspective for building a “sub-system of health” allowing capacity development of health workers and communities and providing potential transferable benefits of such action for other emergency disease responses, including Ebola.
11. The UNAIDS annual core budget of US\$ 242 million is small compared to its catalytic impact in setting the global HIV agenda, providing country support, and promoting a shared direction for the many resource providers including the Global Fund and PEPFAR. This budget supports catalytic work in 11 Cosponsors as well as a Secretariat presence in 90 countries including its headquarters and seven regional offices.
12. UNAIDS research and modelling indicates that 87% of people living with HIV will be in middle-income countries in less than 10 years. This raises important questions on how the future health agenda will be financed, the role of ODA, the nature of future partnerships required to achieve global goals, the meaning and role of shared responsibility, and greater resourcing and advocacy for the role of civil society in demand creation and service delivery. In this context UNAIDS is already providing significant support to countries in developing sustainable financing plans for the transition period.
13. The Joint Programme is a tangible example of how significant impact can be achieved through multi-sectoral action and partnership. The Executive Director stressed the Joint Programme’s focus on delivering results, efficiently managing internal resources and maximizing investments into impact areas. He noted that both ECOSOC and the Programme Coordinating Board have cited UNAIDS as an example for the UN to enhance strategic coherence, coordination, results-based and country-level focus in the post 2015 period.
14. Finally, the Executive Director thanked those Member States who had reconfirmed their financial commitments to UNAIDS and welcomed the Organisation’s expanding funding base with a number of new donors including Chad, Côte d’Ivoire and Senegal.

15. Concluding his remarks, the Executive Director stressed that the post-2015 debate provides a not-to-be-missed opportunity to emphasize HIV as an entry point for social transformation in the broader health and development agenda, including through tangible impact on human rights and gender equality.
16. A video message from South Africa's Minister of Health, His Excellency Aaron Motsoaledi, discussed the importance of domestic financing of and sustainability of the AIDS response in the country. With the support of UNAIDS, South Africa had introduced innovative strategies to exponentially increase domestic resources for the national AIDS response. He emphasized the critical role and relevance of UNAIDS in particular in terms of agenda setting, building the investment case, ensuring a multi-sectoral response at all levels, and challenging the country's response to be fully evidence-based. Thanks to these efforts South Africa was able to lower the cost of anti-retroviral drugs significantly, which enabled the country to increase the number of people on treatment by 58% with the same budget. He urged development partners to continue funding of UNAIDS as a key role player in the health agenda of the post-2015 period.
17. Participants gave a strong recognition to the role that the Joint Programme can play in the post-2015 period. Emphasis was placed on the importance of maintaining momentum and keeping the attention of the international community on the AIDS response through the principle of shared responsibility and global solidarity, and that complacency must be avoided. Suggestions were made to link and utilize the lessons learnt from the AIDS response and use HIV as an entry point to broader health issues, e.g. the Ebola crisis, and to combine efforts to strengthen global health systems.
18. The United States reported that PEPFAR will be prioritizing smart investments and collaborating and leveraging support from partners such as the Global Fund and private sector. It will focus on five main aspects: accountability; impact; sustainability; human rights; and partnerships. It was stressed that PEPFAR would welcome ongoing guidance from UNAIDS to optimally target its resources.
19. Participants suggested that the communication of results be made more central to UNAIDS resource mobilization efforts, including the impact of continued and predictable funding, and underscoring the risk of not keeping the much needed political and financial momentum. This would entail tailoring of messages to different audiences, including policy makers, scientists and communities. Development partners need to see results where they invest, especially where they impact broader health and development. It was underlined that financing pertains not only to money but more broadly to resources in general and that sustaining civil society and community action is critical to the response and the goal of ending AIDS by 2030.

AGENDA ITEM 2: MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM

20. Mr Tim Martineau, Chief of Staff, UNAIDS, presented an overview of overall trends in domestic and international financing of AIDS, and the role of the Joint Programme in mobilizing political support and resources for the AIDS response.

21. The UBRAF budget has remained at the same level for the last three biennia during which time UN Women became the 11th cosponsor without increasing the overall budget envelope of the Joint Programme. This was accomplished through funding efficiencies. During this period, UNAIDS achieved core UBRAF funding between 93-98% of total needs necessary to fulfil its PCB-mandated agenda. It is expecting to mobilize 93% of the core budget for 2014-2015 – in line with the funding mobilized last biennium – and additional efforts are needed to close the gap. Finally, UNAIDS highlighted its work in reaching out to new donors, particularly in the global south.
22. Three key messages with regards to UNAIDS funding situation were emphasized, i.e. the need to:
- Fully fund core budget approved by the PCB;
 - Improve predictability of funds to enhance planning; and
 - Move towards multi-year funding agreements.
23. Ms Jan Beagle, Deputy Executive Director, UNAIDS, moderated a panel discussion comprised of:
- Mr. Kirit Solanki, Member of Parliament in India representing the State of Gujarat
 - Ms. Marijke Wijnroks, Chief of Staff, Global Fund
 - Mr. Kenly Sikwese, PCB NGO Representative for Africa
24. The panellists discussed the relevance and importance of the Joint Programme in the future AIDS response. They also showcased UNAIDS' multi-sectoral and inclusive partnership approaches. A number of suggestions were stressed by the panelists, including UNAIDS to continue to:
- Create a space for a wider discussion to guide the strategic use of funds based on robust data and best practices but also ensuring the engagement of all stakeholders;
 - Work at global and country level to encourage domestic funding, not just for HIV but for a broader health response;
 - Convene and engage in difficult conversations, including on human rights, gender and key populations at higher risk;
 - Collaboration and advocacy at the highest political levels are critical to a successful response;
 - Lead the development of investment cases in countries to optimize the use of resources, including resources under the Global Fund's New Funding Mechanism;
 - Play a catalytic role in strengthening the civil society response, scaling up community engagement, and bringing civil society into HIV policy setting and

- programme design;
- Help ensure continued financial commitment to civil society in periods of transition from international to domestic financing, as support to social movements and advocacy for human rights of people living with HIV and key affected populations is more fundamental than ever to the AIDS response; and
 - Promote multi-sectoral country responses that include the meaningful involvement of all relevant stakeholders, in particular through inclusive country dialogues.
25. Participants urged that the Financing Dialogue be a first step to the development of a broader discussion on financial accountability, the review of distribution of core and non-core funds, and the analysis of expenditure. They welcomed the reporting on financing of the UBRAF and asked that the Joint Programme should continue to make them aware of the financing situation including gaps, where necessary. Participants reiterated the need for ensuring sustainable and predictable funding of UNAIDS core resources and for an expansion of the donor base (including with a focus on middle-income countries) to ensure that the UBRAF remains stable and able to deliver on its goals.
26. UNAIDS was encouraged to expand upon its lessons learnt on using HIV as an entry point to address wider health emergency responses and to illustrate how investing in HIV is an investment in health and development.
27. The role of civil society in creating a movement for transformation was emphasized and concerns were raised that international financing, which has traditionally been strong in supporting civil society, should be continued through domestic strategies and resources.

AGENDA ITEM 3: INVESTING FOR RESULTS

28. The session focused on the added-value of the Joint Programme to influence and drive impact at country level, leveraging resources and political commitment and working collectively to deliver results. The session also showcased the catalytic role of the UNAIDS Secretariat as a coordination body for 11 cosponsoring agencies and the UBRAF as a good practice example of financial management and accountability. The speakers comprised: Mr. David Wilson, Global HIV/AIDS Programme Director, World Bank; Ms. Alice Ouedraogo, Director, ILOAIDS; and, Mr. Steve Kraus, Director, Regional Support Team for Asia and the Pacific, UNAIDS.
- David Wilson provided examples of how the World Bank uses core UBRAF resources for analytical work to drive the investment optimization research agenda forward and investments directly on AIDS where the biggest impact could be made, integrating the response to AIDS with other broader issues, such as social protection.
 - Alice Ouedraogo illustrated the ILO's perspective on the value added of the Joint Programme in mobilizing internal commitment and resources for AIDS within a Cosponsor and their Governing Body. Decision points from the UNAIDS PCB calling for HIV to be integrated into areas of broader health and development, had helped to

- secure a commitment from the ILO Governing Board at a recent session that HIV is integrated into the World of Work agenda for post-2015.
- Steve Kraus highlighted how the Joint Programme's resources and efforts in five different countries (Indonesia, Malaysia Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam) have led to significant results and impact, including through the development of National Strategic Plans and Global Fund New Funding Model Concept Notes, national resourcing, all with the participation of multiple sectors and stakeholders.
29. A presentation of the new UNAIDS financing web portal was given by Joel Rehnstrom, Director Planning, Finance and Accountability, UNAIDS. The tool provides a user-friendly interactive platform with information on UNAIDS' action at country level, results against the priorities (UBRAF goals and functions), how UNAIDS raises and spends resources (including breakdown of resources by functions, strategic directions, regions, etc), funding trends and other functionalities. It can be accessed at <http://results.unaids.org>.
30. It was recognized that bold global targets have generated national commitments and that UNAIDS *Getting to Zero* global vision has mobilized and inspired countries. Participants stressed the value of UNAIDS ability to influence political agendas in the broader health and development arena and the criticality of ongoing support to the post-2015 retargeting process. Participants strongly reaffirmed the importance of showing how investment in HIV has added value and multiplied impact across other health and development areas, including with regards to advances in human rights. They stressed that UNAIDS has shown great strength in effective communication for AIDS and that this must continue. The positioning of people at the centre of the UNAIDS agenda was underlined as fundamental to ensuring results as was the importance of the Joint Programme's role in providing strategic information for investment. UNAIDS was urged to continue the improvement of data collection as a driver for investment optimization and the research agenda. The web portal was welcomed as a tool to increase UNAIDS transparency and accountability and to better communicate results.
31. The multi-sectorality of UNAIDS work, ensuring the meaningful participation of all stakeholders remains critical to ensuring that no one is left behind. Participants urged the continuation of this people-centered, rights based, equity-focused inclusiveness as a fundamental principle of the global AIDS response.
32. Echoing earlier calls for the Financing Dialogue to be the first in a broader process of discussion on HIV funding, participants emphasized that the consultative development of the next UBRAF would be an important opportunity to continue the dialogue.

AGENDA ITEM 4: THE WAY FORWARD

33. In summing up the UNAIDS Executive Director underlined that the Dialogue represented a critical milestone in efforts towards ending AIDS by 2030, emphasizing the need to ensure that the *Fast Track* window of opportunity is maximized. Most especially as these efforts can have multiplier effects as they build platforms for health system reinforcement, for greater discussion of issues related to gender, young people and social transformation.

34. The Executive Director underlined the experience of the Joint Programme as an example of One UN where focus on a thematic issue, coupled with small catalytic funds, has led to coordinated efforts and results. He also underlined the need for the AIDS response, and broader health and development agenda, to enable greater and more meaningful involvement of the private sector.
35. In closing the Dialogue, the Chair underlined that participants had given a significant vote of confidence in UNAIDS leadership on AIDS and that several key messages had been heard (see start of document). Finally, two specific follow up actions were highlighted for action by UNAIDS:
- production of a conference room paper for the 35th PCB summarizing key issues and outcomes of the Financing Dialogue; and
 - development of a paper highlighting lessons learned from HIV and the Joint Programme which could be relevant for the Ebola response.

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