

Information Note with regard to item 1.3 - Report of Executive Director

Proposal regarding the next UNAIDS Strategy

Background:

- Recent UNAIDS reports and findings from country retargeting processes, before the PCB, show that there is a fragile five-year window to build on the rapid acceleration of results in the AIDS response. The next five years will determine the next fifteen.
- If scale up leading up to 2020 is accelerated, we will be on track to end the epidemic by 2030 as a public health threat; if not we risk adding a decade or more to end the AIDS epidemic.
- The vision and strategic directions of the existing UNAIDS Strategy remain sound. With an update and extension, these provide a solid framework, but we can be bolder in what we seek to achieve.

Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (CCO)

- The five year window of opportunity and the need to fast-track the response was discussed by the Executive Heads of the Cosponsors at the CCO meeting in Washington on 19 November. They considered that the existing vision and strategic pillars of the Joint Programme remain valid but that the Strategy required strengthening to build political commitment, mobilize resources and provide guidance to fast-track the response in the coming years.
- The CCO agreed that UNAIDS EXD would propose to the PCB, in the context of his report, the need for a Strategy to take the Joint Programme through the fast-track period and align with other planning cycles as mandated by QCPR (2016-2021). See attached letter from the Chair of the CCO.

Rationale for a Fast-Track Strategy

- The retargeting process and recent reports (the Gap Report, the Fast-Track report and the Cities Report) have provided new compelling evidence – all pointing in the direction of the need for accelerated action in the next five years to be able to end AIDS by 2030.
- The Gap Report reminded us of the diversity of the epidemic and that people are being left behind. The Fast-Track and Cities reports told us we can reach the people being left behind and end AIDS. This is about scaling up efforts to reach everyone and close the gap to HIV prevention and treatment services in this five-year window.
- Countries, cities and communities are adopting the ambitious 90-90-90 treatment targets launched at Melbourne. If we reach these targets, and ensure combination prevention, we will be on track to end AIDS.
- The challenge now is to articulate a global strategy on how we can do this. We need to mobilize political commitment, identify programmatic approaches that accelerate action, and focus global efforts and resources on doing the right thing.
- We only have a five- year window of opportunity. Every year we wait sets us further back from our goal of ending AIDS.

Proposal to the Board

- Under the Report of the Executive Director, the Executive Director would make the proposal. Subsequently, a decision point could be tabled by a member state, requesting the EXD to present to the PCB a strengthened UNAIDS Strategy that maintains the vision of the three zeroes and the strategic directions, but updates and extends its timeframe to respond to this evidence.
- A strengthened Fast-Track Strategy would be developed through a broad consultative and inclusive process, including regional and multi-stakeholder consultations.

Possible timeline for Strategy development

- The Strategy and UBRAF would be developed for the period 2016-2021 to align with QCPR recommendations. The Strategy and outline UBRAF would be developed in parallel for review by the PCB in June 2015 – with possible endorsement of the Strategy by the PCB in June, or discussion of a draft Strategy and UBRAF outline in June, and adoption of the Strategy and the UBRAF at the following PCB meeting.
- The 37th meeting of the PCB, scheduled for December 2015, may be moved forward, possibly to the end of October, to enable the organization to be operational by 1 January 2016, after the adoption of the UBRAF.



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Yury Fedotov
Executive Director

4 December 2014

Dear Michel,

I am writing to follow-up on the constructive discussion we had at the 39th meeting of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (CCO) in Washington, D.C. two weeks ago.

We concluded that it would be necessary to have a strong UNAIDS Strategy to position AIDS in the post-2015 development agenda and guide the work of the Joint Programme. We agreed that limiting ourselves to updating the existing Strategy for two years would not be sufficient to effectively support countries to capitalise on the next five years' window of opportunity.

We need a strong, new six-year UNAIDS Strategy from 2016-21 that will fast-track the global response and set us on the trajectory to end AIDS by 2030. The new Strategy will also be valuable in the context of the preparations for, and follow up to, the 2016 UNGASS on drugs and 2016 High-Level Meeting on AIDS.

As we discussed in Washington, D.C., I would therefore, on behalf of the CCO, ask that you present this position to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board at its 35th meeting on 9 December 2014.

We look forward to the Board's perspectives on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yury Fedotov', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr. Michel Sidibé
Executive Director
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
Geneva

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