

UNAIDS Financing Dialogue

Concept note

I. Overall context

Progress towards zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero deaths related to AIDS is gaining momentum and it is possible to start conceiving an end to the AIDS epidemic by 2030. However, AIDS is not over as the gains could easily be reversed and not all countries, communities or populations share in the gains. This is no time for complacency.

Efforts in innovation and science need to be redoubled, and service provision needs to be integrated and de-medicalized. Human rights, particularly the rights of women, young people and other groups who continue to be left behind without services need to be addressed. Strategic collaboration with all major funders of the AIDS response needs to be improved, and the role and contributions of civil society need to be leveraged. And critically, new, innovative sources of financing, including taxes, remittances and trust funds, need to be mobilized.

As the only joint and cosponsored programme of the United Nations, UNAIDS is a tangible example of a collaborative, multi-sectoral response to a complex and multi-faceted issue. UNAIDS vision of the three zeros is guiding the response to AIDS across the world and UNAIDS continues to demonstrate value for money. This is confirmed by the findings of the mid-term review of UNAIDS Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) which highlights that the approach of the Joint Programme is working—a strategic focus on high-impact countries and key populations and more targeted allocation of resources with strengthened accountability.

The value of the lessons learned from the Joint Programme's unique approach has also been acknowledged by UNAIDS governing body, the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) [decision 5.3 June 2013], and by ECOSOC (Resolution E/RES/2013/11), which recognizes that the Joint Programme offers the UN a useful example to be considered as a way to enhance strategic coherence, coordination, results-based focus and country-level impact in the post 2015 period.

II. Mandate

The mandate for a Financing Dialogue can be found in the 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. Key areas noted in the QCPR resolution include: enhancing overall funding, in particular core resources; improving the predictability and quality of resources, and; ensuring full cost recovery.

At its 34th meeting in July 2014, the PCB requested UNAIDS to “hold a Financing Dialogue aimed at ensuring predictable and sustained funding, efficient management of funds and transparency for effective implementation of the UBRAF within the overall AIDS response”. The PCB requested that “the Financing Dialogue should take place before the end of 2014 to discuss programmatic and financial accountability and reporting; review the distribution of core and non-core funds; provide monitoring information on trends in funding, and; analyse expenditures in relation to strategic directions and functions” [decision 7.10 July 2014].

III. Organization of dialogue

Within the context of ongoing efforts to mobilize continued political and financial support for ending AIDS and sharing lessons learned by the Joint Programme for the post-2015 development agenda, a Financing Dialogue will be held on 12 November from 9:30 to 17:00 in the Kofi A. Annan Room at UNAIDS headquarters in Geneva.

Based on the QCPR mandate and PCB decisions, the specific objectives of the one-day consultation are to:

1. Showcase the relevance of the AIDS response and Joint Programme for the post 2015 period;
2. Seek support for continued, adequate and predictable funding of UNAIDS, and broaden UNAIDS donor base; and
3. Demonstrate efficiency, transparency and accountability in the management of funds.

Resources needed to achieve the goal of ending AIDS by 2030 will be discussed within the broader health and development landscape emerging for the post-2015 period and overall trends in development assistance and funding for AIDS. Challenges and opportunities in mobilizing resources, including alternative and innovative ways of financing, will be explored.

The importance of continued funding of UNAIDS and predictability of resources will also be highlighted. Efforts to track progress, effectiveness and efficiency will be presented, including through a web portal. The distribution of resources as well as trends in funding and expenditures will be presented.

Programmatic and financial accountability will be central themes of the consultation, which will provide an opportunity to strengthen partnerships and dialogue with existing and potential new donors and partners on mobilizing funding for UNAIDS.

IV. Outline of agenda

- 08.30 Registration and coffee
- 09.00 **Opening and overall context**
- The global partnership to end AIDS by 2030
- 10.30 Coffee
- 11.00 **Ensuring sustainability of the AIDS response**
- Trends in ODA and financing of the AIDS response
 - Moderated panel discussion on UNAIDS role
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 **Investing for results**
- Presentations by UNAIDS Cosponsors and Secretariat
 - Efforts to ensure increased accountability and transparency
- 15.00 **The way forward**
- Summing up