

Press release

Highlights from the 18th meeting of UNAIDS' governing board

Reaffirmation of commitments from the High Level Meeting on AIDS, intensified coordination and increased support for national AIDS responses discussed

Geneva, 5 July 2006 - The governing board for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) met in Geneva last week. The board – known as the 'Programme Coordinating Board' (PCB) – is made up of representatives from governments, international organizations and civil society and is currently chaired by Sweden. Held over two days, the meeting was attended by more than 240 participants - representing 76 countries, 18 United Nations and other international organizations and 16 non-governmental organizations.

Among the significant policy issues covered at this, the 18th UNAIDS PCB, were recommendations on how the United Nations system and other institutions can better work together to strengthen coordinated action on AIDS.

Major outcomes and recommendations from the meeting include:

- **Reaffirmed commitment for coordinating role of UNAIDS in scaled-up response**

In light of the new commitments made by UN Member States at the High Level Meeting on AIDS 2006, held in New York in June of this year, the governing board reaffirmed the coordinating role of the UNAIDS Secretariat and its Cosponsors within global efforts to scale up comprehensive prevention, treatment, care and support programmes.

As part of the response, UNAIDS was requested to further intensify its engagement with civil society - including networks of people living with HIV - to encourage full, active and meaningful civil society participation in target-setting and monitoring as well as to help mobilize national AIDS responses to ensure they reach the community level.

The governing board also requested that the UNAIDS Secretariat continue to develop its methodology for global resource needs estimates, and help meet global financial resource needs - estimated to reach US\$ 20-23 billion annually by 2010.

- **Increased support to national responses in line with the 'Three Ones' principles**

To strengthen national AIDS responses, the governing board urged all partners to ensure that the provision of technical and financial support to national AIDS responses is fully harmonized and aligned in accordance with the "Three Ones" principles – **One** agreed national AIDS strategy, **One** national AIDS coordinating authority, **One** agreed country-level monitoring and evaluation system- and the 2003 Rome and 2005 Paris Declarations on Aid Effectiveness.

The board also tasked UNAIDS and its partners with further developing guidelines and providing resources to support civil society involvement in the implementation of the “Three Ones” principles.

The board endorsed the increase of UNAIDS technical support to national AIDS programmes— including the mobilization by UNAIDS of an additional US\$ 40 million for the biennium 2006–2007.

- **Approval of the Unified Budget and Workplan 2006-2007**

The PCB commended UNAIDS’ Cosponsors and Secretariat for strengthening the results-based management framework of the budget as a better accountability tool. The budget and workplan were cited as progressive examples of UN reform.

The 19th meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board will take place from 7-8 December 2006 in Zambia.

Contact

Beth Magne-Watts | UNAIDS Geneva | tel. +41 22 791 5074 | magnewatts@unaid.org

Eric Rocca | UNAIDS Geneva | tel. + 41 22 791 4509 | roccae@unaid.org