

30 May 2005

Dear Colleague,

I am delighted to provide you with a further update on the Resource Needs Steering Committee and the Global Task Team on improving Coordination among multilateral institutions and international donors.

Many of you have participated in key meetings relating to these processes over the last weeks - I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment and participation.

#### The Resource Needs Steering Committee

The second meeting of the Resource Needs Steering Committee took place on Tuesday 17 May to consider recommendations developed by the Resource Needs Technical Working Group, and to further advance work on developing resource needs estimates for AIDS. Following this important meeting, modeling work is continuing to develop a resource needs estimate figure, and breakdown of current available funding. These figures will be reviewed by both the Technical Working Group and the Steering Committee and will then be released at the time of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting from 27 – 29 June. Resource needs would be estimated only for the years 2006 to 2008. These figures will be released with the clear understanding that they include only a partial estimation of the necessary investments in human resources and infrastructure. Considerably more work needs to be done in these areas. A longer term process will attempt to address these issues and will focus on continuing to improve the methodology, a regular updating of parameters, as well as increased engagement and participation of developing countries in resource estimations. Longer term work would be for both the estimation of resource needs, and for resources available and will continue to be facilitated by the UNAIDS Secretariat.

#### The Global Task Team on Improving Coordination among multilateral institutions and international donors

Over the last weeks, the first round of Global Task Team meetings took place in Geneva. All three Working Groups – on harmonization of programming and finance, harmonization of technical support and harmonization of monitoring and evaluation – presented sets of initial recommendations to the Global Task Team, which considered them at its first meeting on May 19 – 20 and provided feedback.

At the heart of the Global Task Team discussion was the premise that efforts by partners to harmonize and align with national strategic plans and priorities must be country-owned and inclusive. There was consensus that the “Three Ones principles” for the coordination of national AIDS responses must be the basis for additional progress, and that further work should focus on translating these principles into more consistent action on the

ground. The group identified two sets of challenges facing national AIDS responses that must be firmly addressed in its final recommendations:

Challenge for countries: To secure ownership by developing capacity to identify problems, set priorities, and establish accountable systems to enable the rapid scaling up of a multisectoral response to AIDS

Challenge for multilateral institutions and international donors: To be accountable to national priorities and systems, through aligning with national systems and harmonizing with each other

The Global Task Team recognized that the outcomes of the individual Working Groups could not be treated in isolation, as a number of themes were touched upon by all the groups. Six topics were identified around which potential recommendations were clustering and in which they would like to focus remaining work: planning; fiduciary arrangements; procurement; capacity/human resources/technical support; monitoring and evaluation; and governance. These themes were divided among the Working Groups and they were urged to produce a small number of high-impact recommendations during their next meetings, which will take place from 31 May – 1 June in New York. The Global Task Team will then meet on 3 June in New York to finalize its recommendations. As has been previously communicated, the recommendations of the Global Task Team will be presented to the June UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Body meeting for consideration as part of the consultation process.

Many of you will be attending the UN General Assembly high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS and coinciding Global Task Team meetings in New York this week, I look forward to discussing these issues further with you there and thank you all for your continuing support on these important initiatives.

Kind regards

Peter Piot