

The UNAIDS We Need: Ten Key Messages from Civil Society & Communities to the Global Review Panel

1. INNOVATIVE FUNDING & A BETTER NARRATIVE ABOUT AIDS

A new *communication approach*¹ and *fundraising strategy* must be stated as core-elements in the new UNAIDS operating model.

- a) Because UNAIDS needs to tell a better story about AIDS not being almost over but rather having turned a significant corner requiring a new phase of investment and effort, including an updated story of the joint programme's added value in the global AIDS response. Most importantly, UNAIDS needs to state how it will support strengthening communities, the meaningful engagement of persons living with HIV with other key populations, sustainable resource mobilization in meeting Fast Track Commitment 7 (30% of all service delivery is community-led by 2020) and 8 (6% of HIV investment will go for social enablers), as well as its contribution on the Global Fund proposal development both regionally and nationally. Finally, an operational narrative must be found to explain UNAIDS' contribution to the SDGs.
- b) Because focusing only on traditional donations from countries – or mainly looking into ways to access funds from the Global Fund – won't raise the necessary resources to achieve the 2020 and 2030 targets UNAIDS should explore and identify innovative funding mechanisms and strategies, such as financial transaction taxes, cause-based-taxation, contributions from the private sector, redirecting spending from repressive law enforcement measures directed at criminalizing populations and others at risk for HIV transmission. There are considerable (additional) resources outside the UN system dedicated to the AIDS response which could be garnered by UNAIDS to support its mission and function in the global response.

2. MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY WITH SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES

The new operating model should highlight the role of civil society, communities, and key populations at all levels, including indigenous people, ensuring that country-level, regional and international platforms meaningfully engage them and that all groups are adequately

¹The Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism Guidelines note that key populations may include women and girls, men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, transgender people, sex workers, prisoners, refugees and migrants, people living with HIV, adolescents and young people, orphans and vulnerable children, and populations of humanitarian concern, in each case based on epidemiological as well as human rights and gender considerations.

consulted and funded to participate. Funds at the Secretariat level should be allocated, in a transparent way, directly in order to support the work of civil society, communities and key populations.

3. A GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

UNAIDS must improve in the area of gender-responsive governance, management and implementation. To this end, UNAIDS needs to ensure gender balance (with all its diversities including trans communities) in their decision-making mechanisms at central, regional and country levels, as well as within governance mechanisms. The mechanisms should be put in place might include bi-annual gender audits of staffing, remuneration, and programme beneficiaries, as well as mandatory gender transformative analyses for all strategies, funding and programming.

4. THE DATA REVOLUTION IN THE AIDS RESPONSE

UNAIDS needs to fully embrace the global data revolution for the AIDS response and better utilize nontraditional data sources; getting data back into programming in a more timely fashion; and sharing data in more openly and distributing the data widely including to and with civil society. In particular, UNAIDS should also ensure data disaggregation based on economic, age², race, education, gender identity, sexual orientation, geographic location and other status, to guide programming and investments of programs, and for better targeting of those most in need. Interventions with a laser-focus on the locations and populations will deliver greatest impact and catalyze innovation for people who need it most, ensuring no one left behind.

5. AN EQUITABLE & INCLUSIVE FOCUS IN FINANCING

Allocating Global Fund funds to UNAIDS demands strong *monitoring and reporting on concrete outcomes*. The mechanism and allocation itself need to clearly define and state what the funds can and cannot be used for at any given time. Additionally, it is important to understand the need for GF to seriously address transition issues from external to domestic funding of the country-level AIDS response, to adopt a more fair approach to fund low and middle income countries, and to manage more actively judicious distribution of resources between government and civil society from effective outcome and community empowerment perspective. The active maintenance of civil society as an independent and key actor in the AIDS response should be an explicit goal of any financing system.

6. INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

In order to increase effectiveness, retain focus and relevance, and to avoid wastage and duplication, both Secretariat and Cosponsors staff (including the high level authorities within UNAIDS) must be accountable for delivering results at national, regional and global levels by reporting against individual working plans with specific indicators that reflect the

² Please note that coverage of survey data for adolescents is low and is affected in contexts where legal barriers and ethical concerns restrict the collection of HIV-related data.

Strategy's key result areas, including for civil society support and partnerships. These should be managed within an efficient, effective and transparent management system. UNAIDS Secretariat's and co-sponsors' recruitment policies and practices should reflect the required capacity to deliver based on the UNAIDS Strategy as reflected in their post's workplans. External accountability mechanisms (i.e. audit) are essential. Results must be available on the UNAIDS website.

7. PARTNERSHIPS WITHOUT PLATFORMS

On the alternative suggestion of creating new Platforms – such as the Partnership Forum – Member States could be urged to include missing stakeholders in their delegations for the Program Coordinating Board (PCB) and encourage them to attend as Observers at the PCB. At regional and country levels, new cross-sectoral partnerships must be forged to leverage the contributions of the private sector, faith-based communities, academia, and science alongside government [key population networks, communities and civil society organizations to defeat the determinants of vulnerability, including discrimination, especially among key populations, and gender inequality.

8. STRONGER UNAIDS

UNAIDS needs to strengthen its regional support team (RST) in all regions and work closely with other UN country teams in order to support countries that are non-Fast Track,² but have concentrated epidemics. UNAIDS Secretariat must ensure that its role and that of UN Cosponsors are clear among civil society and community partners, especially key populations, particularly those that work on issues of decriminalization, access to treatment, prevention and human rights, among others, by inviting other UN agencies working on HIV at the regular Partnership Forum that UNAIDS RST convenes and in similar platforms at the country level.

9. TAKING THE AIDS RESPONSE INTO A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUTURE

UNAIDS Joint Programme must ensure that it has a clear strategy for taking AIDS out of isolation, stepping up its engagement with sexual and reproductive rights, public and global health in general, and the SDGs at global, regional and national level. This must involve increased engagement, real collaborations and planning for resilient systems at global, regional and national levels.

10. PREVENTION, PARTNERSHIPS & PEOPLE

The AIDS response has come very far and will finally succeed through the activism and mobilization of millions of people. UNAIDS should play an active role in sharing the best practices and lessons learned from this mobilization across other areas of public health and human rights, and should re-emphasize this non-medical component of success through a revitalized and refunded prevention focus, backed with concrete scientific evidence.

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