

# **JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**

## **Support to NEPAD**

**Period of Report: July 2008 to June 2009**

### **Collaboration with other UN agencies in support to NEPAD**

During the reporting period, the AU/UN Joint Cluster on Human Resources Development, Employment, Health and HIV&AIDS<sup>1</sup> (renamed Social Development Cluster) organized a retreat to better align the Cluster with the AU priorities as recommended by the 8<sup>th</sup> Regional Consultation Meeting (RMC). This was done within the framework of the evolving UN-AU Ten-Year Capacity Development Programme.

The cluster agreed on the following immediate next steps:

1. The Cluster shall support the African Union Commission (AUC) review process and the development of a social development strategic plan to serve as input into the overall AUC Strategic Plan.
2. The Strategic Plan will also inform the updating of the 10 Year Capacity Building Programme Framework. After developing the Social Development Strategic Plan, the Cluster Business Plan will be developed.

UNAIDS and its cosponsoring agencies, working under the auspices of the AU/UN Social Development Cluster, provided technical support to the AUC to develop a Social Policy Framework for Africa (SPF) that was submitted for consideration at the AU Heads of State and Government at their session held in Addis Ababa February 2009. The SPF was developed at the request of the AU to complement and supplement the ongoing national and regional policy initiatives such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) and NEPAD African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and to close the gap where these did not adequately address some social and development issues, including HIV. UNAIDS, through the Joint UN teams at country level and RDTs at regional level, will support the implementation of the SPF.

It should be noted that UNAIDS and other agencies had taken some preliminary steps towards engaging through NEPAD, the APRM Secretariat on the process and actions towards monitoring country performance on HIV and AIDS through the NEPAD APRM. The Cluster has agreed to support the AUC link into the APRM process through direct input into country review process and linkages with M&E frameworks. In this connection, the UN agencies will use the APRM questionnaire as a guideline to support capacity building efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> FAO, IAEA, ILO, IOM, UNDP, ECA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, WFP, WHO/WAC, AU Commission, WIPO and NEPAD Secretariat

UNAIDS has engaged directly with the Health Advisor to NEPAD to advocate for joint planning with the HIV and AIDS Programme at the AUC in the Department of Social Affairs. There is a need to develop an integrated result-oriented and costed mid-term UN-AU-NEPAD-strategic Partnership Plan with a monitoring and evaluation framework. This is in keeping with the evolving institutional status of the NEPAD Secretariat towards full integration into AU processes.

### **The report of the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance (CHGA)**

UNAIDS and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) worked closely to finalize the report of the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance (CHGA). The report “Securing Our Future” was presented by the Commissioners to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008 during the High-Level Meeting on AIDS, followed by a high-level panel discussion on “Regional Lessons in the progress towards universal access.”

“Securing our future” is the culmination of a unique consultation by CHGA Commissioners with a wide constituency in Africa and beyond. The findings and recommendations not only embody deep original analytical insights derived from the Commission own research, they also reflect the views of the more than 1,000 Africans, including policy makers, advocacy groups, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, people living with HIV, research organizations and UN agencies who took part in the consultation process. The report addresses issues on HIV and AIDS that complement and supplement areas covered by NEPAD.

UNAIDS and UNECA are developing a policy advocacy strategy for the implementation of CHGA recommendations at country level. In this regard, consultations will be held with the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat, Regional Economic Communities, CSOs, networks of People Living with HIV and the UN.

### **The Compendium of AU and International Commitments on HIV and AIDS**

UNAIDS provided technical support to the African Union Commission (AUC), to produce the first-ever comprehensive compendium of continental and global commitments on HIV and AIDS.

The Compendium puts together global and African Declarations, Resolutions and positions adopted between 1987 and 2007 (including those related to support to NEPAD), at Summits of Heads of State and Government, UN General Assembly Special Sessions and High Level Meetings, Conferences of Ministers of Health, Regional Meetings of UN Agencies and Civil Society Organizations. The Compendium comprises twenty seven Global Commitments on HIV, twenty four Continental commitments of the African Union and eight Regional Commitments (of Regional Economic Communities and Civil Society Organizations).

This is evidence of political commitments and unprecedented collaboration among various stakeholders at all levels in response to HIV and AIDS. It is expected that this Compendium will contribute to ensuring a wider dissemination and internalization of these commitments and facilitate follow-up, monitoring and periodic evaluation aimed at better performance.

### **Collaboration with Parliaments**

The Brazzaville Commitment on scaling up towards universal access recommends that the Pan-African Parliament Committee on Health, Labor and Social Affairs, working within the framework of the AU, and making use of AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) and the NEPAD African Peer Review mechanism, provide advocacy, oversight and accountability for the implementation of the commitment towards universal access. Many other regional and continental commitments and frameworks include the Maputo Plan of Action and the 2006 Abuja Call for Accelerated Action towards universal access emphasize the central role of parliaments in promulgating and overseeing the enforcement of national laws for an approach to the Millennium Development Goals, including Health and HIV.

In this connection, UNAIDS has initiated work with a number of African Parliaments to develop model legislation on HIV, informed by evidence and by the international Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights.

UNAIDS is working closely with the department of Social Affairs of the AUC to engage with members of the Pan African Parliament particularly the Committee of Health, Labour and Social Affairs to advocate with Member States of the AU for implementation of the international, continental and regional commitments now collated in one Compendium and better collaboration with Regional Committees.

UNAIDS, through the UN Joint teams, will provide technical support to countries around the domestication of the Regional Model Law on HIV that was adopted by the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF), in November 2008. In order to help parliamentarians to exercise fully their legislative, budgetary and oversight powers to tackle HIV in their communities and countries, the inter-Parliamentary Union, UNDP and UNAIDS have designed a handbook for parliamentarians (“Taking action against HIV”) which provides many illustrations of good practices by legislatures and gives examples of leadership by individual parliamentarians.

As part of a long-term process to ensure greater policy and budget support for health development and financing in Africa, through implementation of the AU Africa Health Strategy, including HIV and AIDS, UNAIDS contributed to the First Conference of African Parliamentary Committee Chairs of Health, HIV, Gender and Finance-on Health Development and Financing, organized by the AUC, the UNECA, in partnership with the Africa Public Health Alliance (Addis Ababa, November 2008).

## **Financial and institutional support for NEPAD programmes and projects**

UNAIDS works closely in terms of institutional, technical and financial support to regional organizations (SADC, ECA) and regional level African civil society organizations on Africa's development in the sphere of HIV prevention, AIDS financing, human rights issues and legislation, universal access and monitoring of these. This is done jointly with UN regional system through the Regional Directors Team and the Joint UN regional teams on AIDS.

Given the very limited staff in the AU Commission for Social Affairs for regular interaction between the AUC, NEPAD and UN, UNAIDS has seconded a senior staff (P5 Level) and allocated US\$80,000 to the Division of Social Affairs to support two additional staff.

UNAIDS worked closely with DPKO and the AU/UN Peace and Security Cluster to mobilize funds to support a full time HIV adviser at AU/ DPKO team in Addis Ababa to develop the AU HIV policy agenda in AU Architecture for Peace and Security. The process for recruitment is still on-going.

## **Advocacy**

Advocacy activities during the reporting period included interventions of the UNAIDS executive director and senior staff with a broad range of African and international partners at high-level meetings, including the 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Annual Meetings of the AU/ECA Conference of Finance Ministers (Addis Ababa, April 2008), the 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (Dakar, December 2008), the 2008 United Nations High-Level Meetings on AIDS, the High-Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs (UNHQ, September 2008), the XVII International AIDS Conference (August 2008, Mexico City), the VI African Development Forum (Addis Ababa, November 2008). UNAIDS has often advocated jointly with senior representatives of the AUC for accelerating efforts towards universal access in Africa at these meetings. UNAIDS has also provided inputs to the statements delivered by the Executive Secretary of ECA at AU Summits.