



Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Report by the Director-General

This report, prepared in response to resolution WHA48.30 (May 1995), describes the action taken towards establishment of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, which will become operational on 1 January 1996.

The Executive Board is invited to note the report and transmit it to the Forty-ninth World Health Assembly; to make recommendations on certain aspects of the functioning of the Programme Coordinating Board; and to consider a draft resolution for submission to the Forty-ninth World Health Assembly.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. This report is prepared in response to resolution WHA48.30 (May 1995) which endorsed establishment of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and requested the Director-General to report on progress towards its establishment to the Forty-ninth World Health Assembly.

II. COMMITTEE OF COSPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

2. Since May 1995 the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations met a further three times in June, July and October 1995, making a total of six meetings since its creation in September 1994. These meetings and several other working-level contacts discussed formulation of the Memorandum of Understanding and reviewed other key documents such as the UNAIDS strategic plan for 1996-2000, the proposed programme budget for the 1996-1997 biennium and others described elsewhere in this report.

3. At the meeting in June 1995 the executive heads of the six cosponsoring organizations agreed to send a letter to all country representatives of the cosponsors through the United Nations Resident Coordinator, describing the purpose of UNAIDS and how it would work at country level. The letter was despatched in August 1995 (see Annex 1).

III. PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

4. In order to ensure a smooth startup of the Joint Programme, it was recognized that guidance should be obtained from its programmatic governing body, the Programme Coordinating Board, before formal establishment. At its first meeting (Geneva, July 1995) the Board was composed of 22 members, selected from among the Member States of the cosponsoring organizations in accordance with a formula drawn up within the Economic and Social Council, together with the six cosponsors and five nongovernmental organizations (see Annex 2 and further explanation in paragraphs 16-19 below). The Board reviewed indicative budgetary proposals for the 1996-1997 biennium; requested that an overall budget should be drawn up within an indicative range of US\$ 120 million to US\$ 140 million; authorized the phased recruitment of staff; and adopted its *modus operandi*.

5. At its second meeting (Geneva, November 1995) the Board reviewed, *inter alia*, the UNAIDS strategic plan for 1996-2000; the proposed programme budget for the 1996-1997 biennium; the Country Support Framework: UNAIDS mode of operations at country level; and the HIV/AIDS activities of the cosponsors for 1996-1997.

IV. PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

Strategic plan

6. After consultation with the cosponsors in mid-March 1995 and five consultative workshops in New Delhi, Santiago, Nairobi, Venice and Dakar between April and June, a draft strategic plan was prepared and sent to the cosponsors for comment in early August. It was also sent to a broad range of partners requesting written comments; over 100 replies were received. The cosponsors reviewed the plan in detail in October and a final draft was submitted to the Programme Coordinating Board at its second meeting.

Proposed programme budget for the 1996-1997 biennium

7. The programme budget, in the amount of US\$ 120 million, is based on expected income for the biennium, estimated from contacts with potential donors. The programme budget was reviewed by the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations at its meeting in October 1995, and a final version incorporating its comments was submitted to the Programme Coordinating Board for approval at its second meeting.

Country Support Framework: mode of operations at country level

8. The Country Support Framework document presents information about UNAIDS mode of operations and activities at country level, including the roles of the United Nations Theme Groups on HIV/AIDS and the UNAIDS country programme advisers. It was prepared after extensive consultation with all sectors: national programmes, nongovernmental organizations and organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS, the private sector, cosponsoring organizations and UNAIDS staff. The document was submitted to the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations at its October meeting and a revised text was distributed to all partners at country level for their comments and feedback. An abridged version was prepared for submission to the Programme Coordinating Board at its second meeting.

9. Advantage was taken of all country visits by the Executive Director and other staff, including participation in the Third International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (Chiang Mai, Thailand, 1995), to provide briefings on UNAIDS, its purpose and mode of operations.

10. Work began on development of a briefing and training course for country programme advisers and other UNAIDS staff.

11. Discussions were held with the cosponsors, including five of WHO's regional offices, and with representatives/managers of a number of national AIDS programmes in order to decide on the most effective mechanisms for maintaining core financial support to these programmes during the 1996-1997 biennium. Governments were informed through the United Nations Resident Coordinator at the end of October 1995 of the indicative level of financing for their national AIDS programmes for 1996-1997.

Staffing

12. After the Programme Coordinating Board's authorization for recruitment, three batches of vacancy notices were issued for most of the professional and general service posts at the Geneva office, and approximately one-half of the country-level professional posts. Two staff selection committees were established (the one for professional candidates comprising representatives of the six cosponsors) and have submitted recommendations for appointment to the Executive Director.

13. As at 30 September 1995, UNAIDS comprised 21 professional and 14 general service staff, including staff seconded from the governments of Australia and Japan, from UNFPA and WHO, and an initial number of recruited staff. Discussions are under way with UNDP and UNICEF to decide upon staff members for secondment to UNAIDS.

Nongovernmental organizations

14. A four-day meeting (Geneva, July 1995) brought together 20 representatives of organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS and other nongovernmental organizations to explore and discuss priority areas of collaboration between them and UNAIDS and possible mechanisms through which cooperation could be facilitated.

V. LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Memorandum of Understanding

15. The six cosponsors reached agreement at the October meeting of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations on the final text of the Memorandum of Understanding which specifies the relationship between the cosponsors of the Joint Programme. The Memorandum was signed by five of the executive heads - namely UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO and WHO, and is now with the World Bank for formal approval by its Board of Governors prior to signature by its President (see Annex 3). Article V of the Memorandum of Understanding provides that the composition and functions of the Programme Coordinating Board shall be determined by the Economic and Social Council and the appropriate governing bodies of the cosponsoring organizations.

Composition of the Programme Coordinating Board

16. By decision 1995/222 the Economic and Social Council decided that the distribution of seats for the Programme Coordinating Board among Member States should be as follows:

- five seats for African States;
- five seats for Asian States (including Japan);
- two seats for eastern European States;
- three seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;
- seven seats for Western European and other States.

Because time was short before the first meeting of the Board, elections for the seats were held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (see Annex 2 for a list of elected members).

17. It was noted at the time that although the first elections were conducted under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, the question of the body or bodies in which subsequent elections would be conducted was a matter for further consultation.

Functions of the Programme Coordinating Board

18. After discussion among the cosponsoring organizations and the review by the Economic and Social Council, the following functions have been determined for the Board:

- to establish broad policies and priorities for the Joint Programme taking into account the provisions of United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/199;
- to review and decide upon the planning and execution of the Joint Programme; for this purpose, the Board shall be kept informed of all aspects of the development of the Joint Programme and consider reports and recommendations submitted to it by the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations and the Executive Director;
- to review and approve the plan of action and budget for each financial period, prepared by the Executive Director and reviewed by the Committee;

- to review proposals of the Executive Director and approve arrangements for the financing of the Joint Programme;
- to review longer term plans of action and their financial implications;
- to review audited financial reports submitted by the Joint Programme;
- to make recommendations to the cosponsoring organizations regarding their activities in support of the Joint Programme, including incorporation of HIV/AIDS activities in the mainstream of their own policy and strategy;
- to review periodic reports that will evaluate the progress of the Joint Programme towards the achievement of its goals.

Administrative arrangements with WHO

19. Agreement was reached between WHO and UNAIDS on the different aspects to be covered by such arrangements as personnel management, financial accounting and general administration.

VI. ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

20. The Executive Board is invited to note the report and transmit it to the Forty-ninth World Health Assembly.

21. The Executive Board may wish to recommend to the Health Assembly that it should endorse the distribution of seats for the Programme Coordinating Board, and to consider the role that the Health Assembly should play in the election of members of the Board in future years (see draft resolution at paragraph 23).

22. The Executive Board may also wish to recommend to the Health Assembly that it should endorse the functions of the Programme Coordinating Board as set out in paragraph 18.

23. The Executive Board is invited to consider the following draft resolution:

The Executive Board,

Having examined the Director-General's report¹ on the implementation of the Global AIDS Strategy and the Director-General's report² on progress towards establishing the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS),

RECOMMENDS to the Forty-ninth World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Forty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the Director-General's reports on the implementation of the Global AIDS Strategy¹ and on progress towards establishing the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS);²

¹ Document EB97/13.

² Document EB97/29.

Recalling resolutions WHA40.26, WHA41.24, WHA42.33, WHA42.34, WHA43.10, WHA45.35 and WHA48.30, and United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/203 on HIV/AIDS, which has emerged as a major public health problem;

Noting the comments and resolutions of the regional committees on HIV/AIDS and the establishment of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS,

1. NOTES with concern that the HIV/AIDS epidemic - and parallel and related epidemics of sexually transmitted diseases - is expanding and intensifying its impact, resulting both in increasing morbidity and mortality, particularly in developing countries, and in repercussions on the functioning of health services;

2. ACKNOWLEDGES with appreciation the essential leadership role played by WHO through its Global Programme on AIDS since its inception, in the mobilization, guidance and coordination of activities for the prevention of HIV/AIDS, care and support of persons living with HIV/AIDS, and promotion and coordination of research activities;

3. RECOGNIZES the dedication and exceptional contribution of the staff of the Global Programme on AIDS to the response to both the HIV/AIDS epidemic, globally and within countries, and the epidemics of sexually transmitted diseases, and expresses appreciation of this work;

4. NOTES with satisfaction that, pursuant to resolution WHA48.30, the Memorandum of Understanding has been concluded for the establishment of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

5. ENDORSES:

(a) the formula drawn up by the Economic and Social Council for the membership of the Programme Coordinating Board of UNAIDS;

(b) the proposal that further consultation should be conducted on mechanisms for future elections of Member States to the Programme Coordinating Board;

(c) the functions of the Programme Coordinating Board described in the report of the Director-General;

6. URGES Member States:

(a) to continue to show strong political commitment to national AIDS prevention efforts;

(b) to ensure expansion of the national response to HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases in both prevention and care, and surveillance of related health problems;

(c) to collaborate closely with UNAIDS and its cosponsors to strengthen development and planning of, and resource mobilization for, national HIV/AIDS programmes;

(d) to provide support to UNAIDS governance by participating actively in the work of the Programme Coordinating Board;

7. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (a) to ensure support for Member States in their response to HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases through maintenance of a strong technical capability within WHO to respond to related health issues;
- (b) to provide technical guidance to UNAIDS on WHO's health policies, norms and strategies, and to facilitate the incorporation of UNAIDS specific policies, norms and strategies into the activities of WHO at global, regional and country levels where appropriate;
- (c) to collaborate in all aspects of resource mobilization for HIV/AIDS activities, including (i) participating in joint fund-raising activity with UNAIDS and its other cosponsors; and (ii) strengthening the capability of WHO country offices to participate in country-level HIV/AIDS funding appeals;
- (d) to ensure that the Health Assembly receives on a regular basis the reports prepared by UNAIDS on its activities;
- (e) to keep the Executive Board and the Health Assembly informed on development and implementation of an overall strategy for WHO's activities related to HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, including: (i) support provided to Member States; (ii) integration of activities, as appropriate, into WHO programmes at all levels of the Organization; and (iii) support provided by WHO to UNAIDS.

ANNEX 1



JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
(UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO, World Bank)

To Country Representatives
through Resident Coordinators

14 August 1995

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to bring you up-to-date on a new venture in the United Nations system of which you may already be aware: the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). Cosponsored by UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank, and endorsed by governing bodies of the cosponsors as well as by ECOSOC (resolution 1994/24), UNAIDS is presently in the process of being set up and will be fully operational by January 1996. Through UNAIDS, the six cosponsors will join forces in a single effort to help the world challenge and live with HIV/AIDS. Its purpose is to draw upon the breadth of experience and scope of action offered by its six cosponsors while ensuring maximum complementarity of the activities and cooperation offered by each of our agencies.

At the global level, UNAIDS serves as the UN system's primary source of policy and technical guidance on HIV/AIDS. At the country level, UNAIDS endeavours to enhance and facilitate cooperation among the six cosponsors. Its major objective will be to help build national and local capabilities to respond to HIV/AIDS by ensuring effective and coordinated support by the UN system, expediting the contribution of bilateral or multilateral inputs and by providing technical support as appropriate. Structurally, at country level UNAIDS will operate on the basis of the Resident Coordinator system, and the mechanisms laid out in General Assembly resolution 47/199 where applicable. The Resident Coordinator will ensure that a UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS brings together the representatives of the cosponsors and other UN agencies, bilateral contributors, IGOs and NGOs.

Much still remains to be determined about how exactly UNAIDS and its staff will function with respect to country operations. Already, however, you should begin discussing with the Resident Coordinator how to establish a UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, or how you may strengthen it if you already have one. As the details of the new programme unfold, you will be kept informed of developments by periodic letters sent to you by UNAIDS and its Executive Director, Dr Peter Piot.

We are aware that UNAIDS represents an almost totally new approach in the cooperative efforts of our respective agencies. We are counting on you to facilitate the work of UNAIDS and thereby make our joint action strong enough, coordinated enough and broad enough to help the world cope with the enormous challenge of HIV/AIDS.

As it represents a new type of cooperative venture on the part of our agencies, we are convinced that the success or failure of UNAIDS will undoubtedly have important repercussions for the final nature of the reforms of the entire United Nations system which are presently being contemplated at the level of Governments. It is therefore imperative for each and every one of us to demonstrate that we are not only willing but capable of working in a coherent and concerted manner.

Yours faithfully,

Federico Mayor
Director-General
United Nations Educational,
Scientific & Cultural Organization

Hiroshi Nakajima
Director-General
World Health Organization

James D. Wolfensohn
President
The World Bank

Carol Bellamy
Executive Director
United Nations Children's Fund

Nafis Sadik
Executive Director
United Nations Population Fund

James Gustave Speth
Administrator
United Nations
Development Programme

ANNEX 2

COMPOSITION OF THE PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

Member States		Term of office¹
African States:	Algeria	2 years
	Congo	3 years
	Côte d'Ivoire	1 year
	South Africa	2 years
	Uganda	3 years
Asian and Pacific States:	China	2 years
	India	3 years
	Japan	2 years
	Pakistan	3 years
	Thailand	1 year
Eastern European States:	Bulgaria	2 years
	Russian Federation	3 years
Latin American and Caribbean States:	Barbados	2 years
	Mexico	1 year
	Paraguay	3 years
Western European and other States:	Australia	1 year
	Canada	1 year
	France	3 years
	Netherlands	2 years
	Sweden	2 years
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2 years
	United States of America	3 years
Cosponsoring organizations:	UNICEF	permanent
	UNDP	permanent
	UNFPA	permanent
	UNESCO	permanent
	WHO	permanent
	World Bank	permanent
Nongovernmental organizations:	Kabalikat ng Pamilyang Pilipino Foundation Inc. (HIV/AIDS Network of the Philippines)	- years ²
	Churches Medical Association of Zambia	- years ²
	International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS, United States of America	- years ²
	Chilean NGO AIDS Network	- years ²
	AIDES Fédération Nationale, France	- years ²

¹ The first meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board agreed that the six months of 1995 would be added to the term of office indicated above.

² The term of office of nongovernmental organizations is a maximum of three years; rotation among the organizations is to be decided by the bodies themselves.

ANNEX 3

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON A JOINT AND
COSPONSORED UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS**

WHEREAS, the worldwide epidemic of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) - a syndrome caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) - is one of the major tragedies of our time which poses a threat of great magnitude to mankind, and requires a multidimensional response at global and country level;

WHEREAS the United Nations Children's Fund ("UNICEF"), the United Nations Development Programme ("UNDP"), the United Nations Population Fund ("UNFPA"), acting within their respective mandates from the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council ("ECOSOC") of the United Nations; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ("UNESCO"); the World Health Organization ("WHO"); and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development ("the Bank"), wish to undertake a joint and cosponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS ("the Joint Programme"), to replace all prior arrangements, bilateral or otherwise, between them concerning HIV infection and AIDS ("HIV/AIDS");

WHEREAS the governing bodies of each of the organizations and ECOSOC, through its resolutions 1994/24 and E/1995/L.24/Rev.1,¹ have endorsed the establishment of the Joint Programme;

NOW THEREFORE, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO and the Bank, collectively referred to as the "Cosponsoring Organizations", have agreed on the structure and operation of the Joint Programme as set forth below:

I ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS ("UNAIDS")

- 1.1 There is hereby established a joint and cosponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS, to be known as the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS ("UNAIDS"), to further mobilize the global response to the epidemic and provide means of coordinated action.
- 1.2 UNAIDS is part of a much broader United Nations system response to HIV/AIDS which also includes:
 - The Cosponsoring Organizations' mainstreaming/integration activities;
 - The resident coordinator² system with its UN Theme Groups on HIV/AIDS, or any alternate arrangements, established at country level;
 - The Cosponsoring Organizations' respective activities at country level in support to national programmes;
 - The Cosponsoring Organizations' respective intercountry/regional activities, within the context of the global workplan of UNAIDS;

¹ Pending allocation of the final resolution number.

² Abbreviation for "the resident coordinator of the United Nations system's operational activities for development".

- The HIV/AIDS activities undertaken by other United Nations system organizations in such areas as humanitarian aid, assistance to refugees, peace-keeping and human rights; and
- Activities undertaken by other United Nations system organizations in cooperation with bilateral aid agencies.

II OBJECTIVES

The objectives of UNAIDS are to:

- (a) Provide global leadership in response to the epidemic;
- (b) Achieve and promote global consensus on policy and programmatic approaches;
- (c) Strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system to monitor trends and ensure that appropriate as well as effective policies and strategies are implemented at country level;
- (d) Strengthen the capacity of national Governments to develop comprehensive national strategies, and implement effective HIV/AIDS activities at country level;
- (e) Promote broad-based political and social mobilization to prevent and respond to HIV/AIDS within countries, ensuring that national responses involve a wide range of sectors and institutions, including nongovernmental organizations; and
- (f) Advocate greater political commitment in responding to the epidemic at global and country level, including the mobilization and allocation of adequate resources for HIV/AIDS-related activities.

III COSPONSORSHIP

- 3.1 The Cosponsoring Organizations are committed to working together and contributing to UNAIDS. UNAIDS will draw upon the experience and strengths of the Cosponsoring Organizations to develop its HIV/AIDS-related policies, strategies and technical guidelines, which will be incorporated by each of them into their policy and strategy mainstream, subject to their governance processes, and reflected in the activities specific to their own mandates.
- 3.2 The activities of the Cosponsoring Organizations relating primarily to HIV/AIDS at global level shall be within the context of the global workplan of UNAIDS, developed in collaboration with the Cosponsoring Organizations. HIV/AIDS activities of the Cosponsoring Organizations at country level shall function within the framework of national plans and priorities and the resident coordinator system, where it exists.

IV STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF UNAIDS

- 4.1 At global level, UNAIDS consists of the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB), the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (CCO) and the Secretariat.
- 4.2 At country level, UNAIDS will operate through a "UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS" and will have Secretariat staff in selected countries.

V PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

The Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) shall act as the governing body on all programmatic issues concerning policy, strategy, finance, monitoring and evaluation of UNAIDS. Its composition and functions shall be determined by ECOSOC as well as the appropriate governing bodies of the Cosponsoring Organizations.

VI COMMITTEE OF COSPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

- 6.1 The Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (CCO) shall serve as the forum for the Cosponsoring Organizations to meet on a regular basis to consider matters concerning UNAIDS, and shall provide the input of the Cosponsoring Organizations into the policies and strategies of UNAIDS.
- 6.2 The CCO shall be comprised of the executive head, or his/her designated representative, of each of the Cosponsoring Organizations. Members of the CCO may be accompanied by a limited number of advisers.
- 6.3 The CCO shall have the following functions:
- (i) To review workplans and the proposed programme budget for each coming financial period, prepared by the Executive Director and reviewed by any appropriate committee established for the purpose, in time for presentation to the PCB;
 - (ii) To review proposals to the PCB for the financing of UNAIDS for the coming financial period;
 - (iii) To review technical reports, as well as financial statements of UNAIDS and audited financial reports, submitted by the Executive Director, and to transmit these with comments as appropriate to the PCB;
 - (iv) To make recommendations to the PCB on matters relating to UNAIDS;
 - (v) To review the activities of each Cosponsoring Organization for consistency and coordination with, as well as appropriate support to, the activities and strategies of UNAIDS;
 - (vi) To report to the PCB on the efforts of the Cosponsoring Organizations to bring UNAIDS's policy as well as strategic and technical guidance into the policies and strategies of their respective organizations and to reflect them in activities specific to their mandates; and
 - (vii) To decide, on behalf of the PCB, on issues referred to it for this purpose by the PCB.
- 6.4 The CCO may establish such advisory committees as it deems necessary for the accomplishment of its work.

VII UNAIDS SECRETARIAT

- 7.1 An Executive Director shall head the UNAIDS Secretariat. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, upon the consensus recommendation of the Cosponsoring Organizations. The appointment shall be implemented by the agency providing administration of UNAIDS. The Executive Director shall be responsible for the overall management

of UNAIDS. The Executive Director may establish such policy and technical advisory committees as may be required.

- 7.2 The Executive Director shall prepare a biennial workplan and budget for UNAIDS, which shall be submitted to the PCB for approval, following review by the CCO.
- 7.3 The Executive Director shall report to the PCB, after consultation with the CCO, on all major programme, budget and operational issues of UNAIDS.
- 7.4 The Executive Director shall be Secretary of the PCB and of the CCO.

VIII GLOBAL LEVEL

At global level, UNAIDS will provide support in policy formulation, strategic planning, technical guidance, research and development, advocacy and external relations. Working closely with the appropriate organizations, UNAIDS will also support normative activities relating to HIV/AIDS in areas such as social and economic planning, population, culture, education, health, community development and social mobilization, sexual and reproductive health, and women and adolescents.

IX COUNTRY LEVEL

- 9.1 It is recognized that national Governments have the ultimate responsibility for the coordination of HIV/AIDS issues at country level. To this end, the arrangements of UNAIDS for coordinating HIV/AIDS activities will complement and support Government efforts for national development planning. The Cosponsoring Organizations shall incorporate the normative work undertaken by UNAIDS at global level on policy, strategy and technical matters into their HIV/AIDS activities and related activities undertaken at country level, consistent with national plans and priorities of the countries concerned. An important function of UNAIDS will be to strengthen national capacities to plan, coordinate, implement and monitor the overall response to HIV/AIDS. The participation in UNAIDS of six organizations of the United Nations system will ensure the provision of technical and financial assistance to national activities in a coordinated multisectoral manner. This will strengthen intersectoral coordination of HIV/AIDS activities and will facilitate further incorporation of these activities in national programme and planning processes.
- 9.2 Within the framework of General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 47/199, the resident coordinator shall establish a UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS in countries for carrying out HIV/AIDS and related activities, and designate a chairperson from among the members of the Theme Group, bearing in mind the desirability of making a selection reflecting the consensus views of the Cosponsoring Organizations present in the country concerned. In countries where the resident coordinator system does not exist or where only one of the Cosponsoring Organizations is present, alternate arrangements shall be made, in agreement with the national authorities, to facilitate the support to the national response to HIV/AIDS.
- 9.3 UNAIDS will facilitate coordination among the Cosponsoring Organizations at country level and may decide to station staff of the Secretariat in selected countries to support the chairperson of the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS.

X. FLOW OF UNAIDS FUNDS

- 10.1 Funds for UNAIDS activities at global level will be obtained through appropriate common global means, including a Global Appeal.
- 10.2 Funding for country-level HIV/AIDS-related activities will be obtained primarily through existing fund-raising mechanisms of the Cosponsoring Organizations.

XI. ADMINISTRATION OF UNAIDS

- 11.1 WHO shall provide administration of UNAIDS. It shall establish a separate trust fund (entitled "UNAIDS Trust Fund"), under its Financial Regulations and Rules, for the receipt and disbursement of financial contributions to UNAIDS.
- 11.2 Financial contributions to the UNAIDS Trust Fund may consist of voluntary cash contributions received from Cosponsoring Organizations, from Governments of Member States of any of the Cosponsoring Organizations, from intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, as well as from commercial enterprises and individuals. In addition, WHO may also receive, in trust for UNAIDS, contributions in kind, e.g., staff, equipment, facilities or services. The resources of UNAIDS shall consist of the aforesaid cash and in-kind contributions.
- 11.3 All expenditures under UNAIDS shall be authorized by the Executive Director against funds received or committed, in accordance with the WHO's Financial Regulations and Rules.
- 11.4 The Executive Director shall be responsible for the selection, supervision, promotion and termination of all Secretariat staff, acting within the staff regulations and rules of WHO which will be adjusted, as necessary, to take into account special needs of UNAIDS. The appointment, promotion and termination of the Secretariat staff shall be implemented by WHO.
- 11.5 All Secretariat staff shall be recruited for service with UNAIDS only. WHO shall be responsible for administrative matters of their employment.
- 11.6 Subject to the possible need to make special arrangements to take into account the particular operational needs of UNAIDS, the operation of UNAIDS shall be carried out in accordance with the administrative and financial regulations, rules and procedures of WHO. WHO shall, in agreement with the Executive Director, elaborate such further details of the administration of UNAIDS as are necessary for its proper functioning.
- 11.7 WHO shall be entitled to apply a charge covering its costs in providing administration of UNAIDS.

XII. FINAL PROVISIONS

- 12.1 This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon signature of the executive heads of all six Cosponsoring Organizations listed in the Preamble to this Memorandum of Understanding.
- 12.2 After the first anniversary of the entry into force of this Memorandum of Understanding and with the unanimous agreement of the existing Cosponsoring Organizations, other United Nations system organizations may become Cosponsoring Organizations by signature of the Memorandum of Understanding.

- 12.3 At the time of the second anniversary of the entry into force of this Memorandum of Understanding, the Cosponsoring Organizations agree to review the Memorandum of Understanding in order to determine whether it should be amended to further improve the operation of UNAIDS. Amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding shall be made by agreement among the Cosponsoring Organizations.

- 12.4 The Cosponsoring Organizations assume no liability for the acts or omissions of the Executive Director or his/her staff.

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