Independent Review:
NGO/Civil Society Participation in the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board

31st Meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board
11-13 December 2012
Mandate and purpose

• **Mandate:**
  
  “9.3. Agrees to review the participation of the NGO Programme Coordinating Board Delegation in the Programme Coordinating Board within no more than five years.”

  20th Programme Coordinating Board Meeting, June 2007

• **Purpose:**

  • To assess the NGO Delegation’s participation in and contribution to the UNAIDS PCB in 2007-2012.
  
  • To recommend forward-looking actions for increasing the engagement and impact of civil society voices in the PCB.
Methodology

1. **Key stakeholder interviews:** 33 interviews with Member States (9), Cosponsors (4), UNAIDS Secretariat (5), past/present NGO Delegates and the Communications Facility (7) and wider civil society (8).

2. **Focus group discussion:** 6 members of current NGO Delegation.

3. **E-survey among wider civil society:**
   - 318 responses (161 in English, 72 Russian, 45 Spanish and 40 French).
   - Range of CSOs, including from Eastern Europe and Central Asia (23%), Western and Central Africa (16%) and Latin America (15%).
   - 18% not aware of NGO Delegation; 37% aware, but not involved.

4. **Desk review:** >70 documents about PCB, NGO Delegation and UNAIDS.

5. **Observation of the context:** telephone briefing and internal NGO Delegation communication. (Limited due to timeframe).
Findings

- **Theme 1**: Official structures, processes and roles that relate to NGO/civil society participation in the PCB.
- **Theme 2**: Composition, selection criteria and process for the NGO representatives.
- **Theme 3**: Systems for communication, consultation and accountability among the NGO representatives.
- **Theme 4**: Capacity and resources for NGO/civil society participation in the PCB.
- **Theme 5**: Involvement of people living with HIV and other marginalized groups within NGO/civil society participation in the PCB.
Conclusions (1-3)

1. Civil society participation continues to be universally welcomed as an important principle and valued asset of the UNAIDS PCB.

2. Civil society participation has maintained high profile on the PCB agenda. The resulting decision points – notably at the 20th, 23rd and 25th Meetings - remain valid. However, while some have been effectively implemented and led to concrete results, others have received only partial or no follow-up.

3. Since 2006/7, the NGO Delegation has developed a stronger identity – with a strategy focused on championing the rights and needs of people living with HIV and key affected communities.
Conclusions (4-6)

4. The NGO Delegation plays a vital watchdog role - monitoring and, as necessary, pushing issues and agenda items of relevance to civil society that risk slipping off the agenda.

5. The NGO Delegation has made an increasingly important contribution to the overall strategic and administrative frameworks of UNAIDS.

6. The NGO Delegation has significantly improved the scale, quality and, ultimately, influence of its work – through enhanced systems, an expanded evidence-base and stronger cohesion. This reflects both the commitment of its members and the work of the Communications Facility – which has proven a sound investment.
Conclusions (7-9)

7. Aspects of the NGO Delegation’s work still need further development, notably their outreach and accountability to wider regional civil society and some key constituencies.

8. The NGO Delegation has a more difficult - but also more crucial - role than ever within the changing and challenging environment for HIV. It must take proactive and strategic action to meet that challenge and play a catalytic and leadership role within the PCB.

9. Going forward, the NGO Delegation needs to strengthen its strategic partnerships with other leaders in civil society, both within and external to the HIV field.
Recommendations

• Recommendations for all key stakeholders in the PCB.
• Recommendations do not require additional financial resources.
Review of the Recommendations by the PCB Bureau acting as Oversight Committee

The steps followed by the PCB Bureau acting as Oversight Committee for this review:

• Guided the review from the start;
• Developed Terms of Reference for the review and selected the independent consultant;
• Adopted the inception report;
• Elaborated on and approved the list of interviewees;
• Commented on the report at different stages;
Review of the Recommendations by the PCB Bureau acting as Oversight Committee (cont.)

The PCB Bureau (OVC):
- Accepted the independent review published on the UNAIDS PCB website as a conference room paper;
- Grouped the 13 recommendations presented by the consultant into four draft decision points for PCB consideration;
- The decision points are grouped around actionable recommendations for: Member States, UNAIDS (Secretariat and Cosponsors) and PCB NGO Delegation.