

UNAIDS RESPONSE TO

**Department
for International
Development**

**Multilateral Aid Review
November 2013**

Mr Paul Walters
DFID
Abercrombie House
Eaglesham Road,
East Kilbride
Glasgow G75 8EA
United Kingdom

19 November 2013

Dear Mr Walters,

I am writing you on behalf of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) following your letter of 4 November 2013, with respect to the MAR update assessment. Building on the Second Independent Evaluation of UNAIDS, the MAR process has been a highly constructive process for UNAIDS and we are grateful for the positive assessment, the close collaboration and practical guidance received from DFID throughout this process.

Laying the foundations to end the AIDS epidemic and achieving our vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths will require a sustained collective commitment from the international community. Such a commitment can only be maintained if UNAIDS achievements and value for money are evident to all. In the context of the mission of UNAIDS, to lead and inspire the world in Getting to Zero, we are proud of our progress in strengthening UNAIDS results and value for money and are encouraged by DFID's recognition of our efforts.

Looking forward, UNAIDS will continue to be focused on strengthening impact and results while improving efficiency and reinforcing our unique mechanisms for budgeting, resource allocation, and accountability. These include: the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF), and the Joint Programme Monitoring System (JPMS), which unify the efforts of our 11 co-sponsoring agencies. With these tools, we will be able to better demonstrate our achievements, in relation to plans and investments; accordingly, Cosponsors will be even more accountable for value for money. UBRAF indicators and targets will be strengthened, performance criteria will be further refined, and the financial implementation bar for release of funds to Cosponsors will be raised.

With the new Unified Budget in 2011, UNAIDS has prioritized resources to countries with the highest burden of HIV. Resources are allocated to the most affected regions and in particular to the 30+ countries where the greatest potential exists to impact the epidemic. Specific criteria to determine the allocation of resources include HIV incidence, prevalence and number of people living with HIV. In the current biennium (2012-2013), approximately half of the total UNAIDS Secretariat resources for countries are invested in the 30+ high-impact countries. In addition, about 20% of global resources are allocated to support intensified action in these high-impact countries. This occurs through high level political engagement of the Executive Director, staffing and resourcing of country and regional support teams, as well as the regular monitoring of key performance indicators.

There are some important considerations, however, which may limit the scope for further increasing UNAIDS allocation of resources to countries with the highest rates of HIV incidence and prevalence. First, HIV prevention is integral to our mission and needs to be addressed globally. In an increasingly connected world, we will never achieve zero new HIV infections if we fail to address HIV prevention, particularly among key populations most affected by HIV. Second, UNAIDS has a mandate for monitoring and reporting on the global status of the epidemic which requires assisting and supporting all Member States in improving their M&E capabilities. Third, a key lesson from the AIDS response is that a shared vision and a collective response have dramatically changed the trajectory of the AIDS epidemic. Part of UNAIDS role is to promote and sustain that vision and response, which requires a global engagement.

Further increases in the proportion of resources committed to the highest burden countries will be a matter for consideration by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board and we look forward to DFID's contributions to this important discussion.

Yours sincerely,



Mariangela Bavicchi Lerner

Director, Resource
Mobilization Division