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Policy Development Section
Employment and Social Protection Segment

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THIRD ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Results achieved during the Director-General's tenure as Chairperson of the UNAIDS Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations in 2015

Purpose of the document

The document provides information on the key achievements of the Director-General's tenure as Chairperson of the UNAIDS Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations in 2015, including specific contributions of the Office to the work of the UNAIDS family during this period, and notes implications for follow-up and opportunities for the ILO and its constituents to integrate HIV and AIDS into their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Governing Body is invited to:

- take note of the information provided in the document;
- request the Office to take into consideration the implications for follow-up noted and opportunities for the ILO and its constituents to integrate HIV and AIDS into their work, when drawing up proposals for future work of the Office in relation to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 8 on full and productive employment and decent work for all; and
- provide the Office with further guidance on follow-up, as appropriate (see the draft decision in paragraph 30).

Relevant strategic objective: All.

Policy implications: None.

Legal implications: None.

Financial implications: None.

Follow-up action required: See draft decision in paragraph 30.

Author unit: HIV and AIDS and the World of Work Branch (ILOAIDS).

Related documents: GB.283/LILS/10; GB.322/POL/3(Rev.).

Introduction

1. At its 322nd Session (November 2014), the Office invited the Governing Body to discuss and provide guidance on the role that the Director-General could play during his tenure as Chairperson of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (CCO) of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS or Joint Programme) in 2015.¹
2. Further to its discussion, the Governing Body requested that the Office submit a report to its 326th Session (March 2016) on the results achieved during the Director-General's tenure as Chairperson of the CCO and any follow-up implications, and to provide member States with all required and requested information and support needed to assist them in integrating HIV and AIDS into the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.²

Background

3. As a UNAIDS Cosponsor since 25 October 2001, the ILO contributes to the global HIV and AIDS response by supporting its tripartite constituents in their efforts to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination in the workplace, and to make HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support services accessible to women and men workers, their families and communities, particularly to those workers most vulnerable to HIV and AIDS, who are often found in unacceptable forms of work. In accordance with the UNAIDS Division of Labour, the ILO is the lead UN agency responsible for scaling up HIV and AIDS workplace programmes and mobilizing private sector engagement.
4. The UNAIDS CCO is the UNAIDS governance structure responsible for making recommendations on behalf of the Cosponsors to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB). The CCO also coordinates the process of reporting on the contributions of the 11 Cosponsors to the global HIV and AIDS response.
5. The ILO Director-General's tenure as Chairperson of the UNAIDS CCO in 2015 took place in a critical year for the development community. It was the target year for the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals – including Goal 6 on preventing and halting the spread of HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases – and of the targets set in the United Nations General Assembly *Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS*.³ Significantly, during 2015, the United Nations General Assembly also adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which will provide the framework for the development community's work over the next 15 years.⁴
6. Prior to the Director-General's tenure, the UNAIDS PCB requested the UNAIDS Secretariat to undertake a multi-stakeholder consultation process to update and extend the UNAIDS Strategy 2011–15 and the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability

¹ GB.322/POL/3(Rev.).

² Minutes of the 322nd Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, GB.322/PV, para. 434.

³ Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 65th Session on 10 June 2011, A/RES/65/277.

⁴ Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 70th Session on 25 September 2015, A/RES/70/1.

Framework (UBRAF) in developing and adopting the UNAIDS Strategy 2016–21.⁵ Through the chairing of the CCO, the ILO was given a unique opportunity to lead the Joint Programme in the process of developing and adopting the new strategy and its corresponding framework.

7. This document highlights the specific contributions of the Office to the Joint Programme in 2015, provides information on the results achieved during the Director-General's tenure, and notes implications for follow-up and opportunities for the ILO constituents to integrate HIV and AIDS into their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.

Adoption of the Economic and Social Council resolution on the Joint Programme

8. The ILO chaired the meetings of the Global Coordinators⁶ that discussed and finalized a draft resolution on the Joint Programme. The draft resolution was extensively discussed by member States and was adopted by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in April 2015.⁷ The resolution underscores the urgent need to accelerate the AIDS response over the next five years to enable countries to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.
9. The ECOSOC resolution notes that, despite significant progress made at global level in responding to HIV and AIDS, critical challenges remain. It calls for efforts to be scaled up on an urgent basis to achieve the goals and targets of the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS. The resolution highlights the value of lessons learned from the global AIDS response for the sustainable development goals, including those learned from the Joint Programme's approach, reaffirming that the Joint Programme "offers the United Nations system a useful example ... of enhanced strategic coherence, coordination, results-based focus, inclusive governance and country-level impact, based on national contexts and priorities".⁸

UNAIDS Strategy 2016–21

10. Through the chairing of the CCO, the ILO provided strong leadership to the Joint Programme in developing and reaching consensus on the new UNAIDS Strategy to be implemented over the critical period of the next six years (2016–21). The Joint Programme noted that this period provides a fragile window of opportunity for accelerating the HIV and AIDS response to enable countries to effectively end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.
11. The Director-General made direct inputs into the content of the new strategy, underscoring the urgent need to:
 - promote inclusive national HIV-sensitive social protection floors;

⁵ UNAIDS: 2016–21 Strategy: *On the Fast-Track to end AIDS*, available at: http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/20151027_UNAIDS_PCB37_15_18_EN_rev1.pdf.

⁶ The Global Coordinators are the designated focal points from UNAIDS and each of the 11 Cosponsors.

⁷ Resolution adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council at its 2015 Session on 8 April 2015, E/RES/2015/2.

⁸ *ibid.*

- place efforts to reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination at the heart of the fast-track response;
 - ensure that people living with HIV are not denied employment on the basis of their real or perceived HIV status;
 - mobilize private sector engagement in the global response;
 - scale up HIV testing to facilitate the achievement of the 90-90-90 fast-track targets for treatment;⁹ and
 - ensure that the HIV and AIDS response is embedded in a comprehensive approach to health and development.
12. The ILO facilitated the participation of its country offices and constituents in the global, regional and country consultations that fed into the development of the new UNAIDS Strategy. It also coordinated the inputs of all Cosponsors in developing the strategy.
13. The 37th meeting of the PCB (October 2015) unanimously adopted the new UNAIDS Strategy 2016–21, which outlines the essential components of the fast-track response necessary to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. Implementation of the strategy will accelerate progress towards achieving the UNAIDS vision of zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.
14. The ILO’s inputs into the new UNAIDS Strategy increased the visibility of its mandate within and beyond the Joint Programme. For example, the strategy now includes a target that explicitly addresses discrimination in the workplace. In contrast to the UNAIDS Strategy 2011–15, the current strategy explicitly includes ministries of labour and employers and workers’ organizations. The new strategy also includes an increased number of references to “workplace”, “social protection” and “private sector” compared with the previous UNAIDS Strategy 2011–15.
15. Inspired by the new UNAIDS Strategy, the HIV/AIDS and the World of Work Branch is currently drafting a revised ILO strategy that is closely aligned with the ILO Programme and Budget for 2016–17, the UNAIDS Strategy and the 2030 Agenda. The ILO strategy also identifies and strengthens the links between HIV and AIDS and other priority areas of ILO’s work, including social protection, fair migration, employment, occupational safety and health, gender equality and rights at work.

United Budget, Results and Accountability Framework 2016–21

16. The Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) 2016–21 operationalizes the new UNAIDS Strategy. In October 2015, the UNAIDS PCB endorsed the new UBRAF¹⁰ and requested that a more detailed accountability framework be presented to the 38th PCB meeting in June 2016. The ILO led the work of the Cosponsor Evaluation Working Group in this regard, and together with UNAIDS, established a working group to develop the structure and content of the revised UBRAF.

⁹ See UNAIDS: *Fast-Track: Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030*, p. 10: http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/JC2686_WAD2014report_en.pdf.

¹⁰ See http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/20151022_UNAIDS_PCB37_15-19_EN.pdf.

17. To strengthen and improve the coherence of its work on HIV and AIDS in 2016–17, the ILO has identified six outputs of the UBRAF where it can achieve the highest impact. Five of these correspond to the priority areas of HIV and AIDS-related work identified by the Office in the ILO Programme and Budget for 2016–17: creating and extending social protection floors; formalization of the informal economy; promoting workplace compliance through labour inspection; protecting workers from unacceptable forms of work; and promoting fair and effective labour migration policies.

UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board

18. In 2015 the ILO was responsible for chairing and coordinating all meetings among Cosponsors before and after the meetings of the PCB to strategize and plan for the Board meetings. It also participated actively in the meetings of the PCB Bureau during 2015. Prior to the 36th and 37th meetings of the PCB, in June and October 2015 respectively, the ILO chaired meetings between the non-governmental organization (NGO) delegation to the PCB and the Cosponsors to identify contentious issues and agree on the best way to achieve consensus among all parties concerned.
19. On behalf of Cosponsors, the Director-General presented a report to the 36th meeting of the PCB in June 2015, which was very well received. The report reviewed the progress made and highlighted the possibility of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 through a fast-track response. The Director-General's Report highlighted specific areas of action where the ILO could scale up its contribution to the fast-track response, including: youth employment; extension of HIV-sensitive social protection floors; reduction of HIV-related stigma and discrimination in employment; and scaling up of the VCT@WORK initiative. The Report proposed a way forward for the Joint Programme in 2016 and beyond by: emphasizing the need to strengthen the reciprocal linkages between the HIV response and other goals of the 2030 Agenda; allowing data and evidence to lead the response; diversifying funding sources for HIV and AIDS programmes; and forging new critical partnerships with the private sector to fill identified gaps in the HIV response.
20. The ILO also coordinated side meetings between Cosponsors and the representatives of the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) at sessions of the PCB. These meetings facilitated dialogue with the United States Ambassador for HIV and AIDS and her delegation and identified areas for further collaboration and engagement, which include urgently addressing the specific needs of young people, especially young women, who bear a disproportionate burden of the HIV epidemic.

UNAIDS Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations

21. The Director-General chaired two key meetings of the heads of the cosponsoring organizations in 2015. Discussions at the 40th CCO meeting in Paris on 28th April 2015 preceded the adoption of the UNAIDS Strategy 2016–21. Under ILO leadership, the Heads of Agency identified strategic linkages between HIV and AIDS and the 2030 Agenda goals.
22. The 41st CCO meeting in New York on 17 November addressed the 50 per cent reduction in financial resources to cosponsors for 2016 announced just prior to the meeting. The CCO established a working group to address this critical funding gap as a matter of urgency. The ILO led the process of drafting and adopting terms of reference for the working group and convened its first meeting in December 2015. The working group's main tasks are to:

- develop a joint resource mobilization plan for the Joint Programme;
- suggest new possible partnerships while mobilizing financial resources for the Joint Programme in the short term;
- develop contingency plans for the Joint Programme in the medium term;
- define a strategy to enable the Joint Programme to deliver on the targets set in the UNAIDS Strategy 2016–17; and
- contribute to the goal of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 (in the longer term).

UNAIDS PCB field visit

23. The ILO participated in a PCB field visit to Zimbabwe on 2–4 June 2015. Other participants included Government representatives from Morocco, Poland, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe and NGO representatives. The visit provided an opportunity for PCB members to observe first-hand the multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional response to HIV and the importance of workplace programmes in a country with a high burden of the epidemic.
24. The participants in the field visit met with senior officials from the Zimbabwe Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, private sector truck drivers and service providers at a truck stop close to the transport corridor between Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia. They also visited the Zimbabwe Power Company and received a comprehensive presentation from the staff on the impact of the company’s HIV and AIDS workplace programmes, which integrate the key principles of the relevant ILO labour standards. The PCB noted in its report of the field visit that workers living with HIV had been able to continue in employment at the Zimbabwe Power Station owing to the HIV and AIDS workplace programmes in place there.
25. As a direct follow-up to participants’ discussions with a group of sex workers along the Victoria Falls tourism corridor, the ILO, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund, provided business skills training to 50 women leaders representing 109 vulnerable women and sex workers who are members of savings and credit cooperatives.

Conclusions

26. The ILO made optimal use of the Director-General’s tenure as Chairperson of the UNAIDS CCO in 2015, taking up a number of opportunities to highlight the relevance of the Organization’s mandate while simultaneously showcasing the vital contribution of ILO constituents in national HIV and AIDS responses. The ILO provided strong and dynamic leadership to the Joint Programme during this critical time, thereby contributing to the following key achievements:
- the development and adoption of the UNAIDS Strategy 2016–21, which includes a strong link to the ILO’s mandate;
 - the development and adoption of the UBRAF 2016–21;
 - a strengthened relationship with PEPFAR through formal meetings between Cosponsors and PEPFAR, and identification of areas of further collaboration during the 2015 PCB meetings;

- increased visibility of the ILO's work and the relevance of its mandate in addressing HIV and AIDS at the global, regional and country levels;
 - the establishment of the UNAIDS CCO working group to pursue the mobilization of resources to meet funding gaps for 2016 while addressing longer-term issues to enable the Joint Programme to deliver on agreed targets; and
 - a comprehensive report from the Director-General, presented to the UNAIDS PCB on behalf of Cosponsors.
27. To enhance the effectiveness of the role of the Chairperson of the UNAIDS CCO, the ILO introduced a range of innovations to existing processes. These include: disseminating a report of the key action points within 48 hours of each meeting; holding a 30-minute meeting with the UNAIDS secretariat prior to each meeting of the Global Coordinators; and establishing a social media group among UN HIV focal points to facilitate prompt information sharing and dissemination. A planning checklist was also introduced to ensure the efficient planning of meetings and events. These contributions will ensure increased effectiveness of the work of the UNAIDS CCO beyond the conclusion of the Director-General's tenure as Chairperson.

Implications and way forward

28. The Office is developing a strategy to guide the next phase of its HIV and AIDS response on the basis of the UNAIDS Strategy 2016–21 and the UBRAF 2016–21, as well as the ILO Programme and Budget for 2016–17 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The new strategy will focus on implementing evidence-informed policies and programmes tailored to the needs of vulnerable workers, mainly in unacceptable forms of work in high-burden locations. Through an integrated approach, it will embed work on HIV in programmes on social protection, fair migration, employment, occupational safety and health, gender equality and rights at work.
29. To overcome the funding gap in the resources mobilized by the UNAIDS secretariat to support the Joint Programme, the Office will intensify resource mobilization efforts through joint initiatives with country offices, decent work teams, and other branches, units and departments.

Draft decision

30. The Governing Body:

- (a) *notes with interest the Office report on the results achieved during the Director-General's tenure as Chairperson of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS in 2015; and*
- (b) *invites the Office to take into consideration the implications for follow-up and opportunities for the ILO and its constituents to integrate HIV and AIDS into their work, when drawing up proposals for future work of the Office aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 8.*