



Joint Action Programme on HIV/AIDS  
**UNAIDS**  
UNICEF • UNDP • UNFPA • UNDG  
ILO • UNESCO • WHO • WORLD BANK

***Statement of Commitment by the UNAIDS Co-sponsor Agencies operating in the Republic of Croatia, and other Agencies having expressed willingness to support HIV/AIDS related programme initiatives***

*Recognising that the Republic of Croatia faces issues related to the spreading of HIV/AIDS in a period of post/conflict economic transition; realising the potential for effective joined national and international support for prevention and awareness; and appreciating the special needs of vulnerable groups such as those using drugs and young people in general;*

*Mindful of the challenges which lie ahead for the Republic of Croatia and the international community at large in delivering on the principles and goals enunciated in the Millennium Declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000 which, inter alia, commit member states to halt, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS by the year 2015;*

*Mindful too of the DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT ON HIV/AIDS "Global Crisis- Global Action", adopted in the June 2001 the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly;*

*The Republic of Croatia, as a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, has acknowledged the central importance of that document which states that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political and other opinion, national and social origin, property, birth or other status, including health status, which, inter alia entitles economic, social and cultural rights (i.e. rights to social security, to work, to*



For the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS  
**UNAIDS**  
UNICEF • UNDP • UNFPA • UNODC  
ILO • UNESCO • WHO • WORLD BANK

*a standard of living adequate for health and well-being, to education, the right to participate in the cultural life of the community) to all Croatian citizens, including people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA);*

*Emphasising that building partnerships and linkages between the UNAIDS Co-sponsor Agencies operating in the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter referred to as the UNAIDS Agencies) as well as co-operation with all international and national human development actors at all levels is essential to improve the effectiveness of the HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment;*

*Conscious that institutionalising these ties will provide an opportunity to share the parties' intellectual capacity and expertise in a more systematic fashion, thus bringing mutual benefit to their work and added value to the prospects of national human development;*

*Affirm, herewith, that the UNAIDS Agencies agree to strengthen their co-operation and partnership in accordance with the provisions of the present Memorandum. To this end, the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS TG) will be established in line with the provisions set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding (Annex 1) to this Agreement to provide a mechanism for United Nations joint and co-ordinated action in support to the (a) national response to HIV/AIDS, and (b) harmonisation of the joint UN System activities;*

*The Parties Agree:*

*1. To commit to share their findings, reports and AIDS related country analysis on a regular basis, unless they are subject to confidentiality or client prerogative. The parties shall inform each other about any event related to the presentation and discussion of the above studies and publications, as well as other relevant programming events. For the purpose of implementing the present memorandum any of the signatory parties may request other parties to participate in meetings organised by them where external experience would be welcome.*



It's About Time Programme on HIV/AIDS  
**UNAIDS**  
UNICEF • UNDP • UNFPA • UNDCP  
EO • UNESCO • WHO • WORLD BANK

2. To support, through the UNAIDS Theme Group the establishment of a national multisectoral, inter-ministerial body for AIDS prevention and coordination - the National AIDS Committee -(NAC) and to advocate Government interministerial coordination in a similar manner. Furthermore, partnerships to involve NGOs, private sector and other relevant institutions are encouraged. In doing so the UNAIDS TG will provide NAC and other partners with the access to its global network of best practice, knowledge management, and expertise for the purpose of contributing to the national strategy planning process.

3. The UNAIDS Theme Group shall provide the NAC with support to strengthen its capacities as a national centre for issues related to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and support to PLWHA and to expand its outreach within the country. Shall the volume of such assistance warrant it, the parties will agree on the appropriate terms of reference for joint actions and will establish appropriate cost recovery schemes for the execution of such activities and will promote the sharing of best practices and exchange of experience as well as see to assist in the mobilisation of resources.

***For the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)***

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cornelis Klein, UNDP Resident Representative

***For the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)***

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cornelis Klein, UNDP Resident Representative

***For the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)***

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Allen, UNICEF Special Representative



2004 United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS  
**UNAIDS**  
UNICEF • UNDP • UNFPA • UNGAP  
ILO • UNESCO • WHO • WORLD BANK

*For the World Bank (WB)*

*Vladimir Skendrović, WB Acting Country Manager*

*For the World Health Organisation (WHO)*

*Antoinette Kaić-Rak, WHO Liaison Officer*

*For the International Labour Union (ILO)*

*Richardus van Boekel, ILO Regional Employment Advisor*

*Zagreb, 29 November 2001*

## ANNEX 1

### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNAIDS CO-SPONSOR AGENCIES OPERATING IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

## ***UNAIDS MISSION IN CROATIA***

### ***I Mission Statement***

Under the leadership of the UNDP Resident Representative, the UNAIDS Co-sponsor Agencies present in the Republic of Croatia, namely UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, World Bank have decided to established The UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS TG) in December 2001.

The primary objectives of the UNAIDS TG are to provide a mechanism for United Nations joint and co-ordinated action in support to the national response to HIV/AIDS, and to take a leading role in advocating for the global mission of UNAIDS itself, strengthening and supporting an expanded response to HIV/AIDS in Croatia, in order to:

- prevent the transmission and spread of HIV;
- provide care and support for those infected and affected by the HIV/AIDS;
- reduce the vulnerability of individuals and communities to HIV/AIDS; and
- alleviate the socio-economic and human impact of the epidemic.

## ***II The UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS TG)***

### **(A) Composition of the UNAIDS TG**

The core membership of the UNAIDS TG in Republic of Croatia consists of the Heads of the UNAIDS Co-sponsoring Agencies operating in the Republic of Croatia namely, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Health Organisation (WHO) and World Bank.

The office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and Open Society Institute (OSI) have joined the UNAIDS TG from its establishment.

The UNAIDS Co-sponsor Agencies without permanent presence in the Republic of Croatia during the establishment time of the UNAIDS TG, namely ILO, UNDCP and UNESCO are expected to confirm support for the activities of the UNAIDS TG.

When appropriate, national counterparts, such as representatives from the Ministries of Health, Education, Labour, Foreign Affairs and from the National AIDS Committee (NAC), as well as other relevant governmental and non-governmental partners, shall be invited to participate in the work of UNAIDS TG. The acceptance of new UNAIDS TG members will be done in consensus between the member agencies.

In addition, bilateral donors and other international and national organisations involved in issues surrounding the HIV/AIDS epidemic may be invited to join the UNAIDS TG, either temporarily or permanently, as deemed appropriate in each individual case by the member agencies.

### **(B) Management and Modus Operandi of the UNAIDS TG**

The Chairperson of the UNAIDS TG shall be the UNDP Resident Representative or his designee.

The Chairperson's principal task is to lead the United Nations joint and co-ordinated response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Republic of Croatia, to facilitate and support the UNAIDS TG's efforts towards strengthening national capacities to mount an effective, multi-sector response to the epidemic. A Deputy Chairperson is selected by the members to serve as an alternate for the Chairperson.

A Programme Assistant (PA), with separate Terms of Reference, will be employed jointly by the members of the UNAIDS TG with contributions made available by member

organisations. The PA will work under the direct supervision of the UNDP, in order to help the Group achieve its objectives in the most efficient possible manner.

The TG will meet at regular intervals in accordance with the schedule established by the Group. The Agenda for each meeting will be prepared on the basis of consensus among the members and will be circulated in advance, preferably at least 2 weeks, of each meeting.

The Annual Work Plan is formulated by the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and approved by the UNAIDS TG to support joint strategy of the UNAIDS TG members. The Plan is subjected to continuing monitoring, evaluation and amendments to make it an efficient management tool.

(C) Terms of Reference of the UNAIDS TG:

Overall objectives:

- Provide joint and co-ordinated international response to the epidemic through strengthening and supporting expanded, multi-sector national policies and programmes that address the issues of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, vulnerability, human rights and development
- Facilitate establishment and functioning of the National AIDS Committee (NAC) that will take a leading role in mobilising the national response to HIV/AIDS and act as the main counterpart of the UNAIDS TG
- Provide technical and financial assistance to the strategic planning process for the national response to HIV/AIDS (situation analysis, response analysis, formulation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy and Action Plan - NAP)
- Advocate for political commitment and multi-sector involvement, in addition to health and education, as well as for appropriate policies, including human rights policies, with the UNAIDS TG counterparts
- Support implementation of the national (governmental, non-governmental) and international partners' programmes in accordance with the NAP and the country's priorities
- Take the lead in HIV/AIDS advocacy to build awareness and resource mobilisation within the UN system and at the country level
- Co-ordinate and jointly programme HIV/AIDS activities among UNAIDS TG members within the context of the NAP, and jointly review and evaluate its implementation and impact on the epidemic

- Ensure that UNAIDS policies and programme guidance are applied by the UNAIDS TG members and are promoted with other partners in the country
- Liase between the national partners and the co-sponsor agencies, and between the national partners and UNAIDS at the global level.

### *III UN Technical Working Group on HIV/AIDS (TWG)*

The UNAIDS TG will promote establishment of the UNAIDS Technical Working Group (TWG) or Groups, to serve as its operational arm. Directly supervised by the UNAIDS TG, TWG will oversee the day-to-day activities related to HIV/AIDS in the Republic of Croatia, and provide operational support in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating joint, co-ordinated activities of the UNAIDS TG in support to the national response to HIV/AIDS.

#### (A) Composition of the UNAIDS TWG

Each UNAIDS TG member agency appoints one of their staff as members of the UNAIDS TWG.

Participation and /or membership in the UNAIDS TWG may be expanded to include representatives from the Government, key institutions, private sector, members of the national and international NGOs working in the field of HIV/AIDS, including the most vulnerable groups, such as people living with HIV/AIDS and those with high risk behaviour. The group will also invite resource people/consultants to advise on different HIV/AIDS issues.

#### (B) Management and Modus Operandi of the UNAIDS TWG

The UNAIDS TWG will work in close co-operation with the national counterparts, addressing the issues specific to the needs. The UNAIDS TG Programme Assistant will participate in all meetings of the UNAIDS TG and UNAIDS TWG, and represent the link between them.

A focal person within the UNAIDS TWG will be designated to chair the meetings and report to the UNAIDS TG. However, each Agency Focal Point is responsible for the information flow and decisions inside their own Agency.

When appropriate, the TWG will form Thematic Working Groups on the priority issues. As required, consultants will be engaged to assist in the technical aspects of the work.

The TWG will meet in accordance with the schedule established, possibly bi-monthly. An agenda will be prepared for each meeting.



Joint meetings of the TWG and the UNAIDS TG will be held as required.

(C) Terms of Reference for the UNAIDS TWG

Under the direct supervision of the UNAIDS TG, the UNAIDS TWG will:

- Prepare joint and co-ordinated Plan of Action for the UNAIDS TG and implement decisions taken by the UNAIDS TG
- Assist/reinforce the capacity of the national leadership to co-ordinate, manage and monitor the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and its consequences, in support of the establishment of the National AIDS Committee (NAC)
- In close collaboration with the Government representatives (NAC) and the implementing agencies, prepare, implement and monitor the annual Plan of Action of the UNAIDS TG
- Prepare an annual inventory of priority policy and programmatic issues for the attention of the UNAIDS TG
- Jointly co-ordinate and review HIV/AIDS activities of the UNAIDS TG members, identify and plan appropriate areas for joint action (joint plan, budget, implementation) and undertake continuous monitoring and annual evaluation of the Plan of Action of the UNAIDS TG
- Compile and maintain a data bank of national experts on all domains of HIV/AIDS prevention and control
- In co-operation with the national and international partners, undertake a periodic updating of the national responses to HIV/AIDS, identifying the main actors and activities
- Ensure that policies and broad activities of the respective co-sponsor agencies and of UNAIDS are reflected in the UNAIDS TG support to the national response
- Promote the integration of HIV/AIDS in the regular programmes of the co-sponsors and other UNAIDS TG members
- Identify the technical support needs of the UNAIDS TG members and the national response, and assist in mobilising such support

- Identify skills development needs and opportunities for staff members of the UNAIDS TG participating agencies and other international partners and assist in their provision
- Identify the need for, and the proposed composition of, specialised thematic working groups for approval by the UNAIDS TG

#### *IV Logistical Arrangements*

A UNAIDS Secretariat in the Republic of Croatia will be established within the premises of one of the UNAIDS cosponsoring Agencies in Zagreb.

The post of the UNAIDS TG Programme Assistant will be jointly funded by contributions from the UNAIDS Co-sponsoring Agencies on a voluntary basis.

The operational budget requirements of the UNAIDS TG and UNAIDS TWGs will be drawn and costed by the members of the UNAIDS TG on a similar basis.

#### *V Annual Plan of Action and budget*

Annual Plan of Action and budget may be prepared and approved by the UNAIDS TG members.

ANNEX 2

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE UNAIDS CO-SPONSOR AGENCIES OPERATING IN  
THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

***Additional UNAIDS Theme Group Members***

*In support to the UNAIDS mission and the need for joint and co-ordinated response to HIV/AIDS in the Republic of Croatia;*

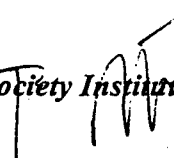
*Fully respecting issues addressed in the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the UNAIDS Co-sponsor Agencies operating in the Republic of Croatia;*

*We are committed to take active and responsible role in contributing to the objectives set by the Group as full members of the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS in the Republic of Croatia.*


***United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)***

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Robert Robinson, UNHCR*

***Open Society Institute (OSI)***

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Tomislav Reškovic, OSI Head Office*

***International Organisation for Migration (IOM)***

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Gregoire Goodstein, IOM Head of Mission*

***United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR)***

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Amin Mekki Medani, UNOHCHR Head of Mission*

Zagreb, 29 November 2001