

## PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

between

**THE JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**

and

**THE FLEMISH GOVERNMENT**

**2010-2014**

### 1. Objectives

The concrete objective of this Partnership Agreement shall be to support the actions of UNAIDS which are aimed at reinforcing the multi-sectoral and integrated response to the HIV epidemic, especially in the following 8 selected countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC): Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. In this way Flanders acknowledges UNAIDS as a strategic partner in achieving the relevant specific target within Millennium Development Goal 6 to have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. Flanders thus endorses the general strategy adopted by UNAIDS, which is to assist partner countries in moving towards universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. However, at the same time, it would like its resources to be used specifically for implementing this strategy in the aforementioned 8 partner countries.

More generally speaking, UNAIDS and the Flemish Government want to conclude this new agreement to reconfirm the relevance of structural cooperation between them. In addition, the Flemish Government wishes to reaffirm the lasting, objective need for the existence of UNAIDS as a special UN Programme for global, regional and national (1) coordination, (2) leadership, (3) policy impact and (4) the collection and channelling of strategic information in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

### 2. Main principles

With the introduction of a Cooperation Declaration for the period 2006-2010, UNAIDS and the Flemish Government have formalised, reinforced and consolidated their cooperation in various fields. Support was provided in particular for the development of innovative programming methods at the national and regional levels.

With the transformation of this unique cooperation agreement into a fully-fledged *Partnership Agreement*, UNAIDS and the Flemish Government acknowledge their complementarity in the actions to fight HIV/AIDS in the context of Southern Africa. On the basis of their respective institutional strength, the UNAIDS Secretariat and the Flemish Government shall:

- continue to do everything possible to mobilise and support broadly-based and multi-sectoral responses to HIV and AIDS with a specific geographical focus on the 8 selected countries within the SADC region, in order to substantially contribute to halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015, in line with Millennium Development Goal 6;
- consolidate the cooperation at the level of the headquarters/capital and region, but especially of the 8 selected countries;



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- aim for increased ownership in the countries, for harmonisation, alignment, results management and mutual accountability, as specified in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the related global HIV/AIDS initiatives;
- together with their partners, align their work with the relevant recommendations of the Second Independent Evaluation of UNAIDS;
- support the UN reform agenda, focussing on results management at global and regional level, the Global Task Team recommendations and the joint implementation of the One UN Programme at the national level;
- ensure, through systematic monitoring and evaluation systems which they share with the other donors, that the operation of UNAIDS generates tangible results in keeping with the agreed goals and indicators;
- share and further disseminate acquired insights to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the response to HIV at all levels.

### **3. Elements of cooperation**

#### **Duties and responsibilities**

For the purpose of their cooperation both Parties shall agree:

- to focus on the HIV epidemic, including the prevention and impact on individuals, communities and the socio-economic development in the aforementioned 8 selected countries within the SADC region;
- to facilitate donor harmonisation, to strengthen technical assistance and to improve the regional and especially the national advocacy of HIV programmes for vulnerable groups;
- to encourage and to mobilise the commitment of leaders in various sectors, and to help facilitate political leadership at the highest levels;
- to do everything possible to ensure the integration of effective responses to HIV/AIDS in development planning and programming, especially at the level of the 8 selected countries, but also at regional and global level;
- to identify and to foster the exchange of experiences at regional level, but mainly between the selected countries, and to encourage good practices and support to technical resource networks;
- to extend the agreements with the private sector and to make every effort to increase its role in the response to HIV/AIDS, including the provision of resources;
- to pursue the mobilisation of additional resources, both technical and financial, for HIV/AIDS initiatives in the SADC region, but especially in the 8 selected countries.

The UNAIDS Secretariat shall use the resources provided by Flanders:

- to support the development and dissemination of normative standards and good practices for the coordinated response to HIV/AIDS, especially in the 8 selected countries;
- to facilitate the extension to universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support in the 8 selected countries, in accordance with the relevant international declarations, and shall to this end continue to advocate the universal application of human rights as an important instrument;
- to ensure the SADC region, but especially the 8 selected regions, a proper place on the global AIDS agenda and in the global strategy development and implementation;
- to coordinate co-sponsor activities in the 8 selected countries, in keeping with the agreed national plans;
- to facilitate and to support the work regarding HIV/AIDS of the SADC Secretariat and in particular of the 8 selected countries through the UNAIDS Regional Support Team for East and Southern Africa and the Regional Directors' Forum;
- to faithfully implement the relevant recommendations from the Second Independent Evaluation of UNAIDS in accordance with the agreed Implementation Plan.

To this end UNAIDS shall:

- register and report the resources provided by Flanders as revenue in its accounts, and shall administer the contributions and activities financed with these resources in conformity with the Financial Rules & Regulations of UNAIDS/WHO;
- subject the financed activities to the internal and external audit procedures as laid down in the Financial Rules & Regulations of UNAIDS/WHO;
- justify at the annual session of the Programme Coordination Board (PCB) the use of the core and designated core funds within the framework of its global financial reporting system to the member states and the donor community. Where possible, UNAIDS shall indicate for which specific projects or activities the Flemish contributions have been used.
- submit one annual narrative report on the implementation of the programmes, again within the framework of its overall reporting responsibilities to the PCB members.
- send a copy of the certification of the accounts by the External Auditor to the Flemish Government in accordance with the regular cycle, i.e. every two years;
- make due mention of the support of the Flemish Government to its activities in relevant publications and reports.

The Flemish Government in its turn shall:

- strengthen its support to the response to HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa, but especially in the 8 selected countries, in keeping with the priorities laid down in the Policy Paper on Foreign Policy, International Enterprise and Development Cooperation for the period 2009-2014;
- participate in the UNAIDS PCB as part of the Belgian delegation, and support the implementation of any decisions taken by the PCB; and
- pay an annual contribution to UNAIDS for the implementation of the 2010-2011 Unified Budget and Workplan and any relevant successors to this financial and planning instrument, consisting of two parts: (1) an annual contribution to the core UBW of EUR 250,000 (amounting to a total of EUR 1 million from 2011-2014) as per the chart below and (2) given the strategic focus of Flanders to concentrate its development aid on the Southern African region, designated core funds amounting to EUR 500,000 per year (total of EUR 2 million from 2011-2014) to support the work performed by UNAIDS in the 8 selected countries.

The aid for the entire implementation period of this Partnership Agreement shall be estimated at a total of EUR 3 million. The annual breakdown between core and designated core contributions shall be planned as follows:

<b>Annual Core and Designated Core Contributions of Flanders to UNAIDS: 2010-2014</b>			
<b>Payment year</b>	<b>Annual contribution</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>Designated Core (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe)</b>	<b>Core</b>	
2011	EUR 500,000	EUR 250,000	EUR 750,000
2012	EUR 500,000	EUR 250,000	EUR 750,000
2013	EUR 500,000	EUR 250,000	EUR 750,000
2014	EUR 500,000	EUR 250,000	EUR 750,000
<b>General total</b>	<b>EUR 2,000,000</b>	<b>EUR 1,000,000</b>	<b>EUR 3,000,000</b>

## Communication and coordination

UNAIDS and the Flemish Government shall commit to maintaining open and efficient communication channels.

- Decisions about programme cooperation and financial aid shall be taken following discussions with the UNAIDS Secretariat at the level of the headquarters and the region.
- The dialogue between the UNAIDS Secretariat and the Flemish Government shall continue through interaction in the meetings of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board as well as between the officials of the UNAIDS Secretariat and the Flemish Government in Geneva and in Southern Africa.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

UNAIDS and Flanders shall commit to further establishing a solid evaluation culture in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of their cooperation. To this end the following steps shall be taken:

- UNAIDS shall focus on the effectiveness of its cooperation efforts and the impact thereof at the level of the 8 selected countries when evaluating this Partnership Agreement together with the Flemish Government. Flanders shall commit to acting as closely in line as possible with the relevant internal and joint external monitoring and evaluation exercises of the operation of UNAIDS at the global, regional and national levels.
- In view of a possible review of the cooperation in terms of content in keeping with this Partnership Agreement, the Flemish Government shall participate in multi-donor consultations, organised by the UNAIDS Secretariat.

## 4. Amendment, duration and settlement of disputes

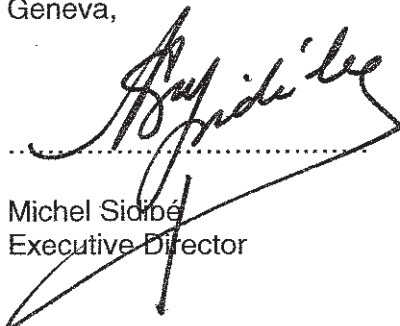
- This Partnership Agreement can be amended by means of a written agreement signed by both Parties.
- This Partnership Agreement shall run over a four-year period which shall last from 01 October 2010 to 30 September 2014.
- This Partnership Agreement shall not be an international treaty. Any discussion about the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be settled by both Parties through mutual dialogue and reconciliation.

Both Parties shall accept the aforementioned terms of this Partnership Agreement.

Date: 22/03/2011

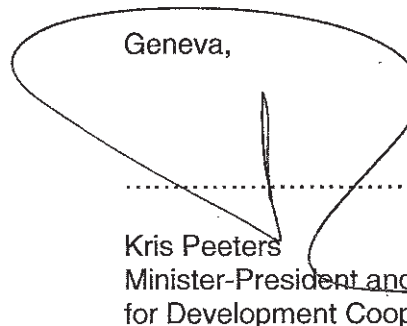
Signed on behalf of  
UNAIDS

Geneva,

  
.....  
Michel Sidibé  
Executive Director

Signed on behalf of  
the Flemish Government

Geneva,

  
.....  
Kris Peeters  
Minister-President and Flemish Minister  
for Development Cooperation