



**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**between**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS**

**and**

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

**2019-2020**

## **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 to work towards ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals

Flanders thus endorses the UNAIDS 2016–2021 Strategy adopted at the 37th meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, and the United Nations Political Declaration on Ending AIDS adopted in June 2016 by the Member States at the United Nations General Assembly for the High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS, and supports decision 7.23 taken at the 38th PCB meeting approving the 2016–2021 Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) as well as the decision 6.8 taken at the 40th the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) meeting approving the UNAIDS 2018–2019 budget and revised resource mobilization and allocation model. At the same time, Flanders would like its resources to be used specifically for implementing this strategy in the aforementioned 8 partner countries

More generally speaking, UNAIDS and the Government of Flanders want to conclude this new agreement to reconfirm the relevance of structural cooperation between them. In addition, the Government of Flanders wishes to reaffirm the UNAIDS as a unique UN Joint Programme for global, regional and national (1) leadership, advocacy and communication, (2) partnerships, mobilisation and innovation, (3) strategic information (4) coordination, convening and country implementation support, and 5) governance and mutual accountability.

## **2. Main principles**

With the introduction of a Cooperation Declaration for the period 2006-2010, UNAIDS and the Government of Flanders 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.

In 2010, this unique cooperation agreement was transformed into a fully-fledged *Partnership Agreement* in which UNAIDS and the Government of Flanders acknowledged their complementarity in the actions to fight HIV/AIDS in the context of Southern Africa, and further renewed for the period 2015-2018.

In 2018, UNAIDS Secretariat and the Government of Flanders wish to renew this Partnership Agreement, aiming principally at continuity in their cooperation. In this sense, on the basis of their respective institutional strength, the UNAIDS Secretariat and the Government of Flanders shall continue to.

- do everything possible to fast track the response to HIV and AIDS where it is most needed, such as in Eastern Europe and Central Asia where new infections are sharply rising, and in the 8 selected countries within the SADC region, where three out of four new infections among adolescents are among 15-19 year old young women, in order to contribute to the reduction of HIV incidence and AIDS-related deaths to levels that no longer represent a major public health threat to any population or country.
- consolidate the cooperation at the level of the headquarters/capital and region, but especially of the 8 selected countries,
- aim for increased ownership and sustained financing 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, the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and the related global HIV initiatives; support the UN reform agenda, focusing on results management at global and regional level, and the joint implementation of the One UN Programme at the national level, through, *inter alia*, stimulating due cooperation, accountability and strategic alignment to the 2016-2021 UBRAF and its consecutive frameworks amongst the 11 cosponsoring organizations, ensure, through systematic monitoring and evaluation systems which they share with the other donors, that the operation of UNAIDS generates tangible results in keeping up 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 primary prevention of HIV, and its impact on individuals, communities and the socio-economic development in the aforementioned 8 selected countries within the SADC region as well as in Eastern Europe and central Asia is the only region of the world where both new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths are rising to facilitate donor harmonisation, to strengthen technical assistance and to improve the regional and especially the national advocacy of HIV programmes for vulnerable groups and key populations such as adolescents, especially young girls, sex workers and their clients, men who have sex with men, transgender people and people who inject drugs, migrants, refugees and disabled people;
- 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, especially at the level of the 8 selected countries, but also at regional and global level, the integration of effective responses to HIV/AIDS in the implementation of the sustainable development goals

- 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 initiatives in the SADC region, but especially in the 8 selected countries and Eastern Europe and central Asia.

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, especially in the 8 selected countries and with a special emphasis on access to prevention, treatment care and support for the key populations so that no one is left behind;
- to facilitate fast tracking combination 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 for the universal application of human rights as an important instrument,
- to ensure the SADC region, but especially the 8 selected countries, a proper place on the global AIDS agenda and in the global strategy development and implementation;
- to stimulate insistently and well coordinate integrated co-sponsor activities in the 8 selected countries, in keeping with the agreed national plans and with the strategy defined by the UBRAF and other relevant UNAIDS-guidelines;
- to facilitate and to support the work regarding HIV 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 recommendations of the Global Review Panel articulated through the UNAIDS Joint Programme Action Plan presented to the 40<sup>th</sup> Programme Coordinating Board

To this end UNAIDS Secretariat 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 Coordinating Board (PCB) the use of the core unspecified and core specified 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 programme, again within the framework of its overall reporting responsibilities to the PCB members,
- send a copy of the certification of Financial Statements by the External Auditor of the year(s) required (see below) to the Government of Flanders through the regular PCB procedures in accordance with the regular cycle;
- make due mention of the support of the Government of Flanders to its activities in relevant donor listings;
- send Terms of References for internships eligible for financing under the Flanders Training Programme on a regular basis;
- seek contact with the Representatives of the Government of Flanders to explore possibilities to reinforce the common visibility and impact where possible.

The Government of Flanders in its turn shall:

- strengthen its support to the response to HIV in Southern Africa in keeping with the priorities laid down in the Government of Flanders 2014-2019 Coalition Agreement and the Policy paper 2014-2019, Foreign Policy, International Entrepreneurship and Development Cooperation and with its concept paper: "Flanders Development Cooperation in 2030, Towards a new identity for Flanders as a partner in development";
- participate in the UNAIDS PCB as part of the Belgian delegation, and support the implementation of any decisions taken by the PCB;
- pay an annual contribution to UNAIDS Secretariat for the implementation of the 2018-2019 UBRAF as well as its consecutive budget frameworks (UBRAF 2018-2019 and UBRAF 2020-2021), consisting of two parts: (1) an annual contribution to the core unspecified of EUR 225,000 (amounting to a total of EUR 450,000 from 2019-2020) as per the chart below and (2) given the strategic focus of Flanders to concentrate its development aid on the Southern African region, core specified funds amounting to EUR 525,000 per year (amounting to a total of EUR 1, 050 million from 2019-2020) to support the work performed by UNAIDS in the 8 selected countries;
- publish terms of references for internships at UNAIDS with a view of possible financing under the Flanders Trainee Programme;
- take all appropriate measures to communicate in Flanders on the mission and realisations of UNAIDS.

The aid for the entire implementation period of this Partnership Agreement shall be estimated at a total of EUR 1.5 million. The annual breakdown between core unspecified and core specified contributions shall be planned as follows:

<b>Annual Core unspecified and Core specified Contributions of Flanders to UNAIDS: 2019-2020</b>			
<b>Payment year</b>	<b>Annual contribution</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>Core specified (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe)</b>	<b>Core unspecified</b>	
<b>2019</b>	EUR 525,000	EUR 225,000	EUR 750,000
<b>2020</b>	EUR 525,000	EUR 225,000	EUR 750,000
<b>General total</b>	<b>EUR 1,050,000</b>	<b>EUR 450,000</b>	<b>EUR 1,500,000</b>

The first instalment of EUR 750,000 will be transferred to UNAIDS Secretariat in 2019 once the Multi-year partnership agreement is signed by both parties and on the basis of the financial report and audited financial statements for 2018 and the UNAIDS performance monitoring report that covers the working year 2018;

The second and final instalment of EUR 750,000 will be transferred to UNAIDS Secretariat in 2020 on the basis of the financial report and audited financial statements for 2019 and the UNAIDS performance monitoring report that covers the working year 2019.

#### **Communication and coordination**

UNAIDS and the Government of Flanders 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 Government of Flanders shall continue through interaction in the meetings of the UNAIDS PCB as well as between the officials of the UNAIDS Secretariat and the Government of Flanders 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 Government of Flanders. 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 Government of Flanders shall participate in multi-donor consultations, organised by the UNAIDS Secretariat.

### **Fraud and Anti-Corruption**

- a. Flanders and UNAIDS are committed to preventing and detecting fraud and corruption including bribery. UNAIDS is responsible for preventing and detecting fraud and corruption in respect to funds provided under this Framework.
- b. UNAIDS will, within its own governance and policy framework, promptly notify Flanders of any suspected or actual fraud and corruption cases detected and undertake relevant investigative and funds recovery action. Where appropriate UNAIDS will refer the matter to the relevant police or other authorities responsible for the prosecution of fraudulent and corrupt activity.
- c. UNAIDS will regularly inform Flanders of the status of actions undertaken and investigative outcomes as soon as practical after their completion or a determination reached
- d. In consultation with UNAIDS, Flanders may request the return of funds provided under this Framework where fraud, corruption or bribery has been identified.
- e. Where practicable, UNAIDS will consult with Flanders prior to the publication or release of information relating to these matters.

### **UNAIDS's Policy on the Prevention of Harassment**

UNAIDS is committed to promoting a work environment free of harassment (including sexual harassment) in which the dignity of all colleagues is respected, and every staff member understands and is able to carry out their responsibilities. In accordance with its Policy on the Prevention of Harassment at UNAIDS (the "Policy"), UNAIDS will take all appropriate measures towards ensuring a harmonious work environment and to protect its staff from exposure to harassment (including sexual harassment) in the workplace through the preventive and corrective measures foreseen in the Policy.

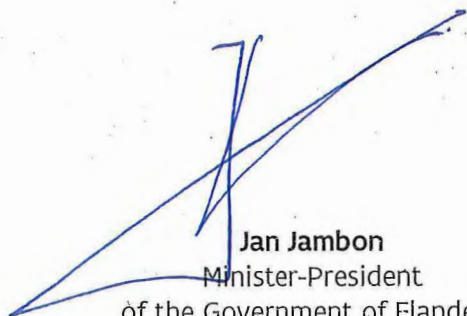
**4. Amendment, duration and settlement of disputes**

- This Partnership Agreement can be amended by means of a written agreement signed by both Parties.
- This Partnership Agreement shall run over a two-year period which shall last from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2020.
- 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.

Signed on behalf of  
the Government of Flanders

Brussels, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019



**Jan Jambon**  
Minister-President  
of the Government of Flanders,  
Flemish Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Culture, ICT and Facility Management

Signed on behalf of  
UNAIDS

Brussels, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019



**Gunilla Carlsson**  
Deputy Executive Director,  
Management and Governance