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Dear Heli,

I would like to thank Finland and France for their collaborative efforts in their respective roles as Lead and Co-Lead for the 2012 MOPAN assessment of UNAIDS and for the excellent discussions we had on 08 November 2012 at the presentation of the final draft report.

We believe it has been a robust assessment; UNAIDS has invested a lot in it and, once the final report is approved, we hope the MOPAN members will broadly disseminate it and use it for their internal purposes.

UNAIDS concurs with the statement that the 2012 MOPAN assessment was carried out at an important stage in the organization's evolution. Following the Second Independent Evaluation in 2009, UNAIDS has made great efforts to address all of the recommendations of this evaluation and has developed systems to improve its ability to define, monitor, achieve and report on results. We highly appreciate that these commitments have been acknowledged in the present evaluation.

UNAIDS has demonstrated strategic leadership and commitment to organizational development and renewal that have already brought positive changes, and will ensure the continuing relevance of UNAIDS' mandate, increase performance-orientation and strengthen accountability.

We also appreciate that evidence-based advocacy, HIV-related policy setting and provision of technical expertise have been identified as some of UNAIDS' key strengths.

UNAIDS will continue to place great importance on building and nurturing partnerships between and among stakeholders including social movements, foundations, networks, faith-based organizations and the private sector, all of which strengthen the United Nation's capacity to meet its global targets and commitments.

UNAIDS
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UNAIDS is conscious of the areas which were identified for improvement and we would like to assure you that we are already in the process of taking the appropriate steps to working on strengthening our performance in this regard, and have begun to do so even prior to the release of the final report. These challenges include UNAIDS' capacity to measure our own performance and to maximize the use of performance information for results-based management, in particular moving from activity-based to results-based reporting to inform about work at the country level.

Furthermore, UNAIDS is aware of the fact that while presenting immense opportunities, the unique organizational structure of the Joint Programme poses some challenges. UNAIDS will continue to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of working jointly with co-sponsors to improve the delivery of results.

Also and as very well pointed out in the report, it was in some cases too early to assess the full extent to which UNAIDS has made the necessary organizational changes. This is on the one side related to the implementation of the UNAIDS functional review while the MOPAN assessment was being carried out in 2012, and on the other given that the first full reporting on the UBRAF will only take place at the June 2014 session of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB). However, there will already be an annual progress report presented at the 32nd session of the PCB in June 2013.

We very much value the constructive feedback and thorough analyses that were provided by the MOPAN member states and will, from our side, continue to do everything we can to support the process in the future.

In close collaboration with UNAIDS' co-sponsors we will continue to lead, coordinate and ensure overall coherence and cohesion in the global AIDS response.

On behalf of UNAIDS, I would like to thank the Governments of Finland and France for their engagement and would like to encourage all MOPAN members to maintain an active support to the Joint Programme, both in terms of predictable and sustainable funding as well as firm political guidance and commitment.

I look forward to our continued collaboration in building an expanded response to the AIDS epidemic.

Yours sincerely,



Mariangela Bavicchi Lerner
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cc: Ludovic Signarbieux, Multilateral Aid Officer, Development Strategies Department, Directorate General of Global affairs, Development and Partnerships, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs