Agenda item 8

UNAIDS/PCB (59)/26.30

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

8–11 December 2026 | Geneva, Switzerland
UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board
Issue date: 24 November 2026

Additional documents for this item: N/A

Action required at this meeting – the Programme Coordinating Board is invited to:

- *Elect* the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Rapporteur for the period 1 January to 31 December 2027 and *approve* the composition of the PCB NGO Delegation.

Cost implications for the implementation of the decisions: none

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Introduction

1. In accordance with the Modus Operandi of the Programme Coordinating Board (paragraph 22), the Board is expected to elect from among its members, and States elected as members as of 1 January 2027, a Chair, a Vice-Chair and a Rapporteur.

2. The elected Vice-Chair for 2026, the Philippines, informed the UNAIDS Executive Director, through a Note Verbale dated 10 November 2026, that, following careful consideration of its national priorities and existing commitments, it would not be in a position to assume the Chairpersonship for a one-year term commencing on 1 January 2027, as envisaged under the Modus Operandi. This meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board must therefore elect a Chair, Vice-Chair and a Rapporteur for a term of one year starting on 1 January 2027.

3. In doing so, the attention of the Programme Coordinating Board is drawn to paragraph 22 of the Modus Operandi which states that: “Officers will be elected taking into account a fair geographical distribution”.

4. Under the provisions of the Modus Operandi, the following Member States will be eligible for election as an officer of the Board on the basis that they will be members starting 1 January 2027:

1. Belgium
2. Brazil
3. Burundi
4. Cambodia
5. Canada
6. China
7. Denmark
8. Germany
9. Haiti
10. India
11. Iran (Islamic Republic)[1]
12. Kenya
13. Lesotho
14. Mexico
15. Netherlands
16. Nigeria
17. Philippines
18. Poland
19. Senegal
20. Ukraine
21. United Kingdom
22. United States of America

5. In accordance with the Modus Operandi (paragraph 22), a written statement of interest is required to be elected as an officer. As at 24 November 2026, the Secretariat has not received any expression of interest from PCB members for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur.

6. In accordance with paragraph 2b of the Annex of ECOSOC Resolution 1995/2:
“*(b) The process of identification of the non-governmental organizations that sought to participate in the work of the Board would be determined by the non-governmental organizations themselves. The Board would formally approve the nomination of those organizations;”*

Summary of the PCB NGO election process

[1] Iran (Islamic Republic) is an outgoing PCB member. The membership for the seat of the Asia and Pacific region will be updated after ECOSOC elections mid-December.

7. The Communication and Consultation Facility (CCF), together with the Orientation, Accountability and Recruitment (OAR) Working Group of the NGO Delegation, manages the annual process of recruiting incoming delegates to fill in the slots vacated by outgoing delegates. OAR also manages the accountability processes within the Delegation when delegates are unable to perform their duties and need to be replaced. Both processes of selection and replacement are as follows:

Determination of vacancies

8. In 2026, six delegates were eligible to continue for a third year in the NGO Delegation. The Delegation members assessed the eligible delegates for an extension of the term of service. Five of these delegates were granted a third-year extension in line with the maximum term of service conforming to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/2. Following this process, the NGO Delegation confirmed a total of three vacancies to serve the term from 2027 to 2028—one for the Europe region and two for the North America region.

Call for applications

9. The CCF and the OAR working group reviewed and improved the online forms and requirements for applying for delegates. A call for applications was broadly circulated from 27 August 2026 to 28 September 2026. The CCF opened an online submission form and provided access to NGO Delegation documents such as the "PCB NGO Delegation terms of reference" and the "PCB NGO Delegation vision, mission, principles, and code of conduct".

10. Due to limited applications received in the initial application period, the call for applications was extended in both regions until 12 October. The North America deadline was further extended until 21 October to allow additional time for candidates to apply.

11. The CCF disseminated the recruitment information through the NGO Delegation’s global civil society email list-serve, website, regional civil society platforms and its social media pages, such as Facebook, LinkedIn and X. Delegates were also asked to recruit among their networks in their respective regions. The call was reposted in various civil society electronic mailing lists and social media pages of international and regional organizations, including those affiliated with the NGO Delegates. A total of 10 applications were received.

Assessment for eligibility

12. All applications received were assessed for eligibility by the CCF. This entailed checking the application form and ensuring that all required documents such as support letters, organizational statement and personal statements had been submitted along with the application form. The assessment also entailed verifying information on the profile of the applicants, including their residence and place of work, in order for them to qualify in the region they were applying from. The CCF also reviewed the supporting documents to check whether the information contained met the requirements, especially if the statements came from appropriate entities, e.g. national networks or regional networks.

Rating and shortlisting the applicants

13. The Delegation undertook shortlisting for both regions. The top three shortlisted candidates were selected to be interviewed by the respective interview panels for the European and North America regions.

Composition of interview panels

14. During the application period, the OAR and CCF constituted the interview panels. An interview panel comprises a delegate from the region being recruited, a delegate from another region, and an external civil society representative from the region, who will participate in all online interviews with the shortlisted applicants in the respective region.

Interviews with shortlisted applicants

15. The interviews were scheduled from 27 October to 4 November 2026. The panels deliberated immediately after the last interviews and agreed on their recommended applicant. The external civil society panelists were required to submit their recommendations in writing to the CCF as part of the documentation. The chair of each panel wrote a short summary of the deliberation of the interview panel to be shared with the full Delegation. On 11 November, the full Delegation convened to select the incoming delegates based on the interview panel's recommendations and further deliberation.

Final consideration by the NGO Delegation

16. The Delegation carefully assessed the current needs and competencies required for 2027, prioritizing diverse representation across key populations and subregions. After thorough deliberation, consensus was reached on the selection of the incoming delegates. The overall balance and parity in representation in terms of sub-regional, HIV status, gender, age, and key population representation, as well as the skills, competencies and expertise they would bring to the Delegation, were considered.

Standard term for serving as a PCB NGO delegate

17. Delegates can serve up to three years as a representative of an NGO in the PCB NGO Delegation. The official appointment of an NGO as a member of the PCB NGO Delegation is for a term of two years.

18. An extension of this two-year term with a third year to serve as delegate can be granted by the full Delegation if the Delegation believes that the delegate representing the NGO is a very valuable part of the PCB NGO Delegation. This extension is solely based on personal merit and accomplishments by the delegate. The decision to grant a third-year extension is taken each year in August after a comprehensive assessment to determine how many recruitment processes need to be initiated.

New composition of the PCB NGO Delegation (2027)

19. The PCB NGO Delegation met to make the final selection of candidates on 11 November 2026. Accordingly, the Programme Coordinating Board is requested to approve the new members of the NGO Delegation for 2027 as follows:

    Europe
    Alliance for Public Health, represented by Tetiana Deshko

    North America
    Stephen Lewis Foundation, represented by Healy Thompson; and

    Global Black Gay Men Connect, represented by Micheal Ighodaro

20. The following criteria were used for the selection:

a. The applicant has solid work experience in the area of HIV/AIDS and can demonstrate understanding of key issues. Key issues can include human rights, policy and legal environments, sustainable financing, stigma and discrimination, gender and sexuality (including a non-binary approach), and other global health issues, civil society spaces and community-led engagement, and the Sustainable Development Goals, among others.

b. The applicant shows understanding of, sensitivity towards, and experience working with or representing key populations and other vulnerable groups in their region.

c. The applicant demonstrates clear communication skills and advocacy experience in English, and the ability to work at regional and international levels, including global boards and civil society delegations. This includes writing skills, presentations, speaking roles, and past experience in diplomacy and negotiations, including work in culturally diverse teams.

d. The applicant demonstrates a clear ability to analyse policy and provide substantial input on documents which the NGO Delegation may be required to review.

e. The applicant demonstrates understanding of the context of, connections to, and the ability to represent their region. This includes experience working in the region, ties to local and regional NGOs, role of their own organization in the region, language skills in the local context, and technological resources to adequately reach out and consult with regional constituencies.

f. The applicant has the skills, tools and organizational capacity to devote enough time to perform the work of the NGO Delegation. This includes having strong organizational back-up and support, including access to communication facilities, especially a stable internet connection.

g. The applying organization demonstrates credible HIV programme and advocacy work, outreach and connections with key populations in the region and capacity to provide support to their nominated applicant. This includes a track record in engagement in regional and/or global advocacy with Member States and United Nations agencies; active outreach and partnerships with or representation of regional and/or global key population networks; facility to enable constituency engagement; and, capacity to provide administrative, programmatic and logistical support to their applicant.

h. The applicant enhances the diversity and inclusivity of the NGO Delegation. This includes contributing to gender balance, diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, representation of underrepresented or marginalized key populations, and ensuring regional balance within the Delegation. Applicants should demonstrate how their inclusion would promote diverse perspectives and experiences, especially regarding populations most affected by HIV in their region.

Draft decision points

The Programme Coordinating Board is invited to:

21. *Elect* the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Rapporteur for the period 1 January to 31 December 2027 and *approve* the composition of the PCB NGO Delegation.

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