UNAIDS PCB BUREAU MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, 3 November 2026

TIME: 12:00–15:00 (CET)

VENUE: Hybrid (in-person at the UNAIDS building and virtually on Teams)

PARTICIPANTS

Netherlands: Representing the PCB Chair: Ms Zina Olshanka, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Geneva; Ms Carolien van Embden Andres, Senior Policy Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr Fabian Schipper, Senior Policy Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Philippines: Representing the PCB Vice-Chair: Mr Jeffrey Valdez, First Secretary, Philippine Mission in Geneva.

Kenya: Representing the PCB Rapporteur: Dr Douglas Bosire, Chief Executive Officer, National Syndemic Diseases Control Council, Ministry of Health;

Representing the PCB NGO Delegation: Ms Keren Dunaway, Organización Llanto, Valor y Esfuerzo (LLAVES).

UNDP: Representing the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations: Ms Karin Santi, Regional Team Leader HIV, Health and Development, UNDP.

UNAIDS Secretariat: Mr Mahesh Mahalingam, Chief of Staff; Mr Morten Ussing, Director of Governance; Ms Samia Lounnas, Senior Governance Advisor; Ms Adriana Hewson, Governance Officer; Ms Saliha Ozdemir, Governance Assistant; Ms Maya Salama, Governance Consultant; Ms Dehbia Oulmi, Governance Intern.

MEETING AGENDA

1. **Follow-up to the PCB Special Session, including transmission of the final report and decisions on the further transition and integration of UNAIDS to ECOSOC:** *The Bureau will discuss the process and arrangements for the transmission of the final report and relevant PCB decisions to ECOSOC.*

2. **Process and timeline for the establishment of the Search Committee for the nomination of the next UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director:** *The PCB Bureau will discuss and agree on the next steps and timeline for establishing the Search Committee for the next UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director.*

3. **Review of the agenda for the 59th PCB meeting:** *The Bureau will review the agenda for the 59th PCB meeting based on the follow-up actions arising from the Special Session.*

4. **Update on preparations for the upcoming virtual 59th PCB meeting (8–11 December 2026):** *The Bureau will receive brief updates on the agenda items at the upcoming PCB meeting.*

5. **Update on the implementation of the UNAIDS 2026 evaluation plan:** *The Director of Evaluation will present to the Bureau the semi-annual update on the implementation of the UNAIDS 2026 evaluation plan.*

6. **Any other business**

Summary of the Meeting

1. Follow-up to the PCB Special Session, including transmission of the final report and decisions on the further transition and integration of UNAIDS to ECOSOC

The Chair recalled decision point 3.1 from the PCB Special Session on 26 October 2026 which requested the PCB Chair to transmit the final report of the PCB Working Group on the further transition and integration of UNAIDS into the UN System and beyond, including the decisions of the Board related to it, to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).[1]

The Chair highlighted that the next ECOSOC resolution on the Joint Programme is expected in 2027, and that transmitting the Working Group's final report and the relevant PCB decisions would provide an opportunity to communicate the Board's agreed strategic directions to ECOSOC ahead of the next resolution.

The Secretariat clarified that the transmission would include the decisions adopted at the Special Session, together with the final report of the PCB Working Group, the report of the Special Session with the presentation outlining the strategic directions approved by the Board annexed to it. The transmission letter would be short and factual. In response to questions regarding the timeline, the Secretariat explained that no specific deadline had been established by the PCB and noted that the report of the Special Session would need to be finalized and adopted by the PCB at its 59th PCB meeting before transmission to ECOSOC.

The Secretariat also highlighted that the Executive Director's report to ECOSOC, expected in April/May 2027 ahead of the July ECOSOC discussion on the Joint Programme, would need to reflect the approved strategic directions set out in the final report of the PCB Working Group on the further transition and integration of UNAIDS into the UN System and beyond. The Secretariat clarified that ECOSOC would receive the documents through its President, and that any further action by ECOSOC would be for the Council itself to determine.

The Bureau agreed to transmit the documents to ECOSOC following the adoption of the report of the Special Session in December 2026. The Bureau noted that subsequent decisions relating to the approved strategic directions, including those concerning the implementation plan, could be transmitted to ECOSOC once adopted by the PCB.

[1] Decisions from the PCB Special Session: https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2026/Decisions

The Chair requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft transmission letter and circulate it to the Bureau for inputs ahead of the 59th PCB meeting.

2. Process and timeline for the establishment of the Search Committee for the nomination of the next UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director

The Chair recalled the decisions adopted at the PCB Special Session on the selection process for the next UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director:

- Decision point 3.5:
    - *Requests* the PCB Bureau to immediately initiate the preparations for the selection process for the next UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director, based on the lessons learned from the previous selection processes, as reflected in document UNAIDS/PCB (45)/19.31 rev1, and submit the Terms of Reference for the Search Committee for the nomination of the UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director at the 59th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board;
- Decision point 3.6:
    - *Requests* the PCB Bureau to prepare the Terms of Reference for the UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director and present these Terms of Reference for intersessional approval by the Programme Coordinating Board before 1 February 2027;

The Chair highlighted two distinct deliverables:

- The Terms of Reference for the Search Committee, to be submitted to the 59th PCB meeting for approval.
- The Terms of Reference for the Executive Director position, including performance indicators, to be submitted for intersessional approval by 1 February 2027.

The Secretariat presented the proposed timeline, drawing on the experience in 2008 and 2019 as well as the PCB lessons learned from the previous selection process in 2019. The Secretariat emphasized the importance of establishing the Search Committee as early as possible.

Estimated timeline for the selection process:

- **3 November 2026**: PCB Bureau agrees on the overall elements of the search process, and that it would review the Search Committee Terms of Reference, timeline, nomination process and budget in the following days further to the Bureau meeting and finalize the PCB paper to be put forward to the 59th PCB meeting with the proposed Terms of Reference of the search process.
- **November–December 2026:** Bureau and PCB members develop and finalise the Search Committee Terms of Reference within the PCB paper, with approval at the 59th PCB meeting (8–11 December).
- December 2026 following 59th PCB meeting, the call for nominations for the Search Committee is circulated, and the Secretariat initiates some steps of the procurement of the search firm to save time. The finalization of the procurement process can only be following the approval of the TOR for the new ED.
- **January 2027**: Handover of the 2026 PCB Bureau to the 2027 PCB Bureau on the process for the search of the new ED: PCB constituencies would have nominated members of the

Search Committee. The 2027 Bureau also develops the ToR and performance expectations for the UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director building on the competencies for the new ED prepared by the 2026 Bureau, with intersessional PCB approval by the end of January.

- **February 2027:** Search Committee supported by the Director of Governance and the search firm begins its work, finalises its support mechanism and launches the call for nominations and applications for Executive Director.
- **End March 2027**: Applications and nominations close.
- **April 2027**: Search Committee supported by the Director of Governance and the search firm reviews applications, interviews candidates and establishes a shortlist. The Search Committee Chair submits its report and shortlist to PCB members in mid-April.
- **29 June 2027 – 60th PCB**: PCB considers the Search Committee report and shortlisted candidates.
- **July 2027:** Search Committee Chair transmits the shortlist, together with PCB comments/recommendations, to the CCO Chair. The CCO then interviews the shortlisted candidates and makes its recommendation to the UN Secretary-General.

The Secretariat recalled that, during the previous process, ten candidates were interviewed and five were presented to the PCB for consideration. The Chair of the CCO subsequently presented three candidates to the Secretary-General, including at least one candidate of each gender.

The Chair proposed to begin working on the Terms of Reference for the Executive Director position in December 2026, to support the incoming Bureau for 2027.

Bureau members supported the proposal to begin as much as possible preparatory work in December including the call for nominations for the Search Committee and reviewing the approved competencies of the new Executive Director, which are described in the terms of reference of the Search Committee as a basis for the development of the terms of reference of the new Executive Director. The Bureau also emphasized the importance of ensuring continuity and providing the incoming 2027 Bureau with a solid basis from which to advance the process.

The Chair also recalled that a missions' briefing had been useful during the previous selection process, allowing stakeholders to review the terms of reference section by section and provide comments. The possibility of organizing a similar consultation, potentially limited to PCB members and held virtually, could be considered by the incoming Bureau.

The Bureau agreed that the current Bureau would initiate as much preparatory work as possible in December including reviewing the approved competencies, as a strong basis for the 2027 Bureau to use for the terms of reference required for the Executive Director position. This preparatory work could then be handed over to the incoming Bureau for further consultation and the expedited drafting of the Terms of Reference of the Executive Director position in January. The terms of reference for the Search Committee would be finalized by the Bureau as a PCB paper and submitted to the 59th PCB meeting for approval.

3. Review of the agenda for the 59th PCB meeting (8–11 December 2026)

The Chair recalled that the draft agenda for the fully virtual 59th PCB meeting had been agreed at the PCB Bureau meeting on 29 July, based on the table of follow-up items from previous PCB

meetings.[2] Following the Special Session on 26 October, however, additional decisions had been adopted requiring follow-up at the December meeting.

The Secretariat presented the possible issues to be considered at the 59th PCB meeting:

- **Transition Task Team implementation plan**
    - This agenda item is a follow-up to decision point 3.3:
        - Requests the Executive Director to submit the transition Task Team's fully costed implementation plan, with detailed costing of different scenarios including one based on available core resources, in line with the criteria mentioned in the final report of the Working Group, with an initial proposal to be submitted at the 59th PCB meeting, and a final plan to be submitted for intersessional decision-making by end of Q1 2027.
- **Process for the selection of the next UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director**
    - This agenda item is a follow-up to decision point 3.5:
        - Requests the PCB Bureau to immediately initiate the preparations for the selection process for the next UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director, based on the lessons learned from the previous selection processes, as reflected in document UNAIDS/PCB (45)/19.31 rev1, and submit the Terms of Reference for the Search Committee for the nomination of the UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director at the 59th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board;

Regarding the Transition Task Team, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that the Executive Director had written to the relevant constituencies requesting nominations, which had already begun to be received. The aim was to constitute the team by the end of the week.

The Secretariat confirmed that the inputs submitted by the PCB NGO Delegation on the Task Team's terms of reference would be taken into consideration. It also confirmed that the terms of reference would be shared with the CCO and the PCB NGO Delegation ahead of the 59th PCB meeting.

The Bureau reflected on the importance of ensuring full stakeholder engagement, including of implementing countries, in the Task Team's work, including during its establishment. The Chair highlighted the short timeframe for the Task Team to prepare its initial proposal and cautioned against setting unrealistic expectations for the December meeting.

The Bureau agreed that the two additional agenda items would be considered at the 59th PCB meeting. The Chair requested the Secretariat to prepare and circulate a revised annotated and timewise agenda, reflecting the additions, for clearance by Bureau members.

[2] Summary of the PCB Bureau meeting: https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2026/Summary_PCB_Bureau_Meeting_290726

4. **Update on preparations for the upcoming virtual 59th PCB meeting (8–11 December 2026)**

The relevant UNAIDS Secretariat focal points provided the updates on the preparation of agenda items as follows:

Agenda item 1.2: Report of the PCB Special Session (26 October 2026)

The Secretariat provided the update as follows:

- The report of the previous meeting is a summary of the presentations and discussions held at the fully virtual PCB Special Session on 26 October. The report is being finalized and will be cleared by the PCB Chair and Bureau before being posted online.
- This report includes a summary of all interventions made in plenary, as well as written statements submitted through the secure platform, as agreed in the intersessional paper on modalities for 2026 PCB meetings.
- The PCB is invited to adopt the report of the Special Session.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the update and looks forward to the review and clearance of the report.

Agenda item 1.3 & 2: Report of the Executive Director and Leadership in the AIDS response

The Secretariat provided the update as follows:

- The Report of the Executive Director would be Winnie Byanyima's final report to the PCB as Executive Director. In addition to reflecting on developments since the previous Board discussions and the implications of the transition, the report was expected to include broader reflections on how UNAIDS and the global AIDS response had evolved during her seven-year tenure.
- As is customary practice, an outline of the Executive Director's report will be posted in advance of the meeting. The full report will be made available following its delivery at the PCB meeting.
- Under the Leadership in the AIDS Response agenda item, the Executive Director invites a high-level speaker to provide a perspective on the AIDS response. The Executive Director is currently in the process of selecting the topic and speaker(s). The PCB Bureau will be informed as soon as possible.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the update.

Agenda item 1.4: Report by the NGO Representative

The PCB NGO Delegation provided the update as follows:

- The title of the report is Safeguarding Community Leadership in the Future of the Global HIV Response.
- The report examines how community participation and leadership can be safeguarded in future governance arrangements as the Joint Programme undergoes its transition. It does

not propose a specific model for the future of UNAIDS but instead identifies guiding principles and five key recommendations to inform future arrangements.

- The report was developed through consultations with community-led organizations, civil society and other partners. Its methodology included:
    - Surveys conducted in four languages, with 46 responses from organizations.
    - Informal interviews and contributions from seven partner organizations, including National AIDS Councils, UN Cosponsors and donors.
    - Two workshops involving NGO Delegation members.
    - Review by all NGO Delegation members and experts from the UNAIDS Secretariat.
- The five key recommendations presented by the Delegation focused on:
    - **Institutionalizing community participation:** Building on existing mechanisms, including the PCB NGO Delegation, to ensure communities retain a formal role in future governance arrangements.
    - **Strengthening community participation in decision-making:** Enabling communities to contribute to setting priorities, developing policies and decisions affecting the HIV response.
    - **Ensuring predictable financing:** Providing resources for constituency engagement, preparation, interpretation, technical support and community-led monitoring.
    - **Safeguarding independent and inclusive representation:** Ensuring communities can select their own representatives and participate safely and freely, with appropriate support and protection.
    - **Strengthening accountability:** Ensuring community-generated evidence continues to inform decisions and that communities remain involved in shaping the transition.

The Chair thanked the NGO Delegation for its work and highlighted the relevance of the report to the ongoing transition discussions, including the work of the Transition Task Team.

Bureau members welcomed the report and expressed support for the initiative, noting the importance of safeguarding community leadership and looking forward to reviewing the full recommendations.

Agenda item 3: Follow-up to the thematic segment on *Beyond 2025: Countering health inequities through sustaining the HIV response, human rights and harm reduction for people who use drugs*

The Secretariat provided the update as follows:

- The summary report on the thematic segment and proposed draft decision points had been circulated to Bureau members on 30 October 2026.

- The thematic segment, originally proposed by the PCB NGO Delegation and approved at the 55th PCB meeting in December 2024, had taken place on 2 July 2026. It included an opening dialogue and three panel discussions addressing:
    - Inequalities affecting access to HIV services and harm reduction for people who use drugs.
    - Protecting human rights through law and policy change.
    - Sustainable financing for harm reduction, including domestic financing opportunities and barriers.
- The thematic segment brought together 20 speakers representing governments, academia, communities and civil society organizations from all global regions.
- The Secretariat highlighted six recommendations emerging from the thematic segment background note, including an overarching recommendation to recognize and fund harm reduction as an essential, evidence-based, rights-affirming and cost-effective component of the HIV response. The remaining recommendations focused on:
    - Addressing the diverse needs of people who use drugs, including women, young people, LGBTI individuals, sex workers and people in humanitarian settings and prisons.
    - Integrating harm reduction into national budgets and health systems while strengthening community leadership, including through social contracting.
    - Removing criminal sanctions for drug use and possession for personal use to improve access to HIV services.
    - Ensuring that organizations led by people who use drugs and wider civil society organizations can freely register, operate and access domestic and international funding.
    - Collecting and using disaggregated and community-generated data to inform HIV programming.

Bureau members thanked the Secretariat for their work on the follow-up report.

The Chair requested Bureau members to provide their written comments on the draft decisions, by the deadline of 9 November 2026. The Chair will then circulate the updated summary report, taking the Bureau's input into account, for information before posting it on the PCB website.

Agenda item 6: Next PCB meetings

The Secretariat provided the update as follows:

- This paper includes the proposed dates for the 64th and 65th PCB meetings in 2029, to facilitate advance planning and logistical arrangements, along with the proposed thematic proposals for the PCB meetings in 2027.
- Only three submissions for thematic segment topics had been received this year, compared with approximately ten in a typical year. The Bureau could consider these three submissions alongside the three proposals from the previous year that had not been selected, thereby broadening the pool of options for its recommendation to the PCB.

- The Bureau's role was to propose themes, while the PCB would take the final decision on their approval.

Agenda item 7: Election of Officers

The Secretariat provided the update as follows:

- The Secretariat outlined the procedures for the election of PCB officers, noting that the three officer positions – Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur – are reserved for Member States. The Modus Operandi provides for diversity among the office-holders, which the PCB has interpreted as requiring representation from three different regional groups. Under the established practice, the incumbent Vice-Chair is elected as Chair for the following year, with the incoming Vice-Chair and Rapporteur drawn from two other regional groups.
- No expressions of interest had been received for the Bureau officers at this stage.
- This paper will include the proposed composition of the PCB NGO delegation for 2027 for approval at the 59th PCB meeting.

The Chair emphasized the importance of preparing for different scenarios and requested Bureau members, particularly Member States representing regional groups, to consult their constituencies and provide clarity as soon as possible on their willingness to assume the incoming Bureau positions.

The Chair indicated that a further Bureau meeting could be convened, potentially alongside discussions on the terms of reference for the Executive Director position, to review progress on regional representation and potential candidates. The Chair reiterated the hope that the Philippines would be able to assume the Chair position.

Agenda item 8: Thematic Segment at the 59th PCB meeting on *Addressing the impact of funding cuts on people living with, affected by, and at risk of HIV, and on the response to HIV and AIDS*

The Secretariat provided an update on preparations for the thematic segment at the 59th PCB meeting, including the key messages emerging from the draft background note and the proposed structure of the session.

The Secretariat outlined six overarching messages emerging from the draft background note:

- **Funding cuts are exposing weaknesses across the HIV response**, with the greatest consequences for people and communities already experiencing marginalization and exclusion. The effects vary depending on countries' reliance on external financing, epidemic profiles, health systems, fiscal circumstances and legal and social environments.
- **A sustainable HIV response must protect lifelong treatment and care while strengthening effective, evidence-based prevention.** Sustainability must extend beyond the achievement of global targets by 2030 and account for the continuing treatment, clinical and psychosocial support needs of people living with HIV.
- **Integration and transition must protect essential functions, effective access, quality, equity and accountability.** Integration into primary healthcare and universal health coverage should strengthen continuity and equitable access rather than transfer responsibilities to overstretched systems or weaken specialized and community-based functions.

- **Community responses are essential to HIV outcomes and extend beyond contracted service delivery.** They include outreach, mutual support, communication, mobilization, monitoring, advocacy, rights protection, knowledge generation and accountability. Sustainable arrangements must protect independent community leadership and communities' ability to influence decisions.
- **Sustainable HIV responses require differentiated country leadership, meaningful community partnership and continued international solidarity.** Governments have primary responsibility for national priorities and resource mobilization, while international cooperation remains essential where domestic financing and institutional capacity cannot meet essential needs.
- **Financing the future HIV response requires protecting essential obligations, adapting resource use and transforming financing arrangements.** This includes protecting lifelong treatment, prevention, community-led responses and rights-related work, while exploring more predictable and diversified financing arrangements, including public financing, social contracting, direct grants and flexible institutional support for communities.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the full draft background note was expected to be shared with the working group on 10 November, followed by a working group meeting on 12 November. The final background note was expected to be ready by 17 November for dissemination on 19 November.

Regarding the thematic segment agenda, the Secretariat had shared a proposed structure with the working group and was awaiting further speaker nominations. At the time of the meeting, three speaker proposals had been received. The draft agenda would be shared ahead of the next working group meeting for discussion and finalization.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the update and looked forward to the final background note and agenda. Bureau members highlighted the importance of developing innovative approaches to maintain the engagement of participants, given that the session would be held virtually. The Secretariat took note of the suggestion and confirmed that it would consider how to make effective use of the flexibility offered by the online format.

5. Update on the implementation of the UNAIDS 2026 evaluation plan

The Director of Independent Evaluation presented the semi-annual update on the implementation of the UNAIDS 2026 Evaluation Plan, which had been circulated to Bureau members on 29 October 2026.

The presentation covered progress against the evaluation workplan, including:

- Two completed centralized evaluations: the role of the Joint Programme in sustaining the HIV response; and the joint evaluation with UNODC on the sustainability of the HIV response for key populations, including people who inject drugs and people in prisons and other closed settings.
- Three evaluations deferred to 2027 due to resource constraints, including the evaluability assessment of the translation of the Global AIDS Strategy into country programmes, UNAIDS community systems at country level in the context of sustainability roadmaps, and lessons learned from the organization's transition process.
- Two additional evaluations supported through the centralized evaluation function, alongside completed global, regional and country-level evaluation activities.

- An ongoing evaluation of the role of the UNAIDS Joint Programme in the use of lenacapavir for HIV prevention.
- An ongoing peer review, expected to be finalized by the end of December 2026.

On financial implementation, it was reported that resources allocated to the evaluation function had been reduced by 54% compared with the amount approved by the PCB. Implementation of the available budget had reached 85%, with expenditure expected to reach approximately 97% by the end of December.

The proposed 2027 evaluation workplan was also outlined, including the evaluations deferred from 2026 and an assessment of the organization's transformation process. The anticipated resource requirement for the Evaluation Office in 2027 was US$165,000.

Key messages from the second meeting of the Evaluation Advisory Committee, held the previous week, were also shared. These included:

- Strengthening the use of evaluation as a strategic tool for adaptive management and evidence-based decision-making.
- Ensuring independent accountability and providing actionable insights to the PCB and senior management.
- Addressing insufficient resources for evaluations to ensure their quality.
- Strengthening formal and informal communication with the PCB, including the dissemination and discussion of evaluation findings throughout the year.
- Retaining an independent evaluation function focused on accountability and providing insights to the Board.
- Identifying a replacement for the Committee member representing the Cosponsors following the retirement of the current member.

The Evaluation Office's increased collaboration with other departments was also highlighted, including support provided to the Human Resources Department through the review of more than 400 individual performance indicators to ensure that performance objectives were specific, measurable, attainable, results-oriented and time-bound.

The Chair requested clarification on the scope of the evaluation of the organization's transition process, particularly whether it would examine the management of financial and human resources during the restructuring and transition.

In response, the initial concept for the evaluation was explained as focusing primarily on how organizational decisions had been made, including the use of evidence and behavioural science to strengthen decision-making. The precise scope would be developed through the terms of reference and an evaluation reference group in 2027, taking into account stakeholder inputs and available resources. While the management of human and financial resources had not been included in the initial proposed focus, these aspects could be considered if identified as a priority by the PCB and other stakeholders.

The Chair emphasized the importance of considering these aspects, particularly in light of previous discussions within the Bureau concerning allegations and concerns relating to the restructuring

process. An evaluation providing insights into the management of human and financial resources could be useful in informing the PCB's future discussions.

Bureau members sought clarification on the relationship between the proposed evaluation and the independent audit of the restructuring process. The Director of Evaluation clarified that the two exercises would have complementary but distinct focuses:

- The audit would examine the organizational transformation and adaptation process, including relevant management and financial aspects.
- The evaluation would focus primarily on the quality of decision-making, the use of evidence and behavioural factors.

The Evaluation Office would coordinate with the audit function to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication.

The Secretariat confirmed that an independent audit of the restructuring process was underway, with further discussion of its findings expected through the relevant oversight processes in 2027.

The Bureau thanked the Director of Evaluation for the update and took note of the proposed evaluation priorities and the importance of ensuring complementarity between the evaluation and audit exercises.

6. Any other business (AOB)

Appreciation to the Co-Facilitators of the PCB Working Group

The Chair informed the Bureau that, following the Special Session, consideration was being given to prepare a letter of appreciation to the Co-Facilitators of the PCB Working Group on behalf of the Bureau, in recognition of their contribution.

Option to hold the 59th PCB meeting in-person

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that several constituencies had requested that the December PCB meeting be held in person, including in the lead-up to and during the Special Session.

The Secretariat outlined the practical and financial implications of changing the agreed format from fully virtual to in-person or hybrid. These included logistical arrangements for participants' travel, interpretation requirements and venue availability. The estimated additional cost of moving to an in-person or hybrid format was approximately US$150,000.

The Chair recalled that the decision to hold the 59th PCB meeting virtually had already been agreed in light of the Joint Programme's financial constraints and the need to prioritize available resources and was consistent with the new operating model as adopted by the PCB at its 56th meeting. The Chair invited Bureau members to share any further views.

The Bureau discussed the value of holding the PCB meeting in-person, particularly given the significance of the transition discussions and decisions expected at the 59th PCB meeting. However, in light of the resource constraints and practical considerations, they supported following the recommendation to hold only one in-person PCB meeting annually.

The Bureau took note of the discussion and the financial and logistical implications of changing the meeting format. The 59th PCB meeting would therefore proceed as a fully virtual meeting.

The Chair thanked Bureau members and the Secretariat for their constructive discussions and reiterated the importance of receiving timely updates from regional groups regarding their representation in the 2027 Bureau ahead of the December PCB meeting.

[Annex follows]

Annex 1: Slides for the PCB Bureau meeting

PCB BUREAU MEETING

3 November 2026

UNAIDS

MEETING DRAFT AGENDA

1. **Follow-up to the PCB Special Session, including transmission of the final report and decisions on the further transition and integration of UNAIDS to ECOSOC:** *The Bureau will discuss the process and arrangements for the transmission of the Final Report of the Working Group and relevant PCB decisions to ECOSOC.*
2. **Process and timeline for the establishment of the Search Committee for the nomination of the next UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director:** *The PCB Bureau will discuss and agree on the next steps and timeline for establishing the Search Committee for the next UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director.*
3. **Review of the agenda for the 59th PCB meeting:** *The Bureau will review the agenda for the 59th PCB meeting based on the follow-up actions arising from the Special Session.*
4. **Update on preparations for the upcoming virtual 59th PCB meeting (8–11 December 2026):** *The Bureau will receive brief updates on the agenda items at the upcoming PCB meeting.*
5. **Update on the implementation of the UNAIDS 2026 evaluation plan:** *The Director of Evaluation will present to the Bureau the semi-annual update on the implementation of the UNAIDS 2026 evaluation plan.*
6. **Any other business**

UNAIDS

Agenda item 1: Follow-up to the PCB Special Session, including transmission of the final report and decisions on the further transition and integration of UNAIDS to ECOSOC

- Decision point 3.1 from the PCB Special Session:
  - *Takes note, with appreciation, of the final report of the PCB Working Group on the further transition and integration of UNAIDS into the UN System and beyond (UNAIDS/PCB/(EM)/6.2), approves the overall strategic direction for the transition of UNAIDS set out in the report and requests the PCB Chair to transmit it, including the decisions of the Board related to it, to ECOSOC;*

- The final report of the PCB Working Group, the decisions from the Special Session, and the summary report of the meeting will be transmitted to ECOSOC.

Agenda item 2: Process and timeline for the establishment of the Search Committee for the nomination of the next UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director

- Decision point 3.5 from the PCB Special Session:
  - *Requests the PCB Bureau to immediately initiate the preparations for the selection process for the next UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director, based on the lessons learned from the previous selection processes, as reflected in document UNAIDS/PCB (45)/19.31 rev1, and submit the Terms of Reference for the Search Committee for the nomination of the UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director at the 59th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board;*

- Decision point 3.6 from the PCB Special Session:
  - *Requests the PCB Bureau to prepare the Terms of Reference for the UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director and present these Terms of Reference for intersessional approval by the Programme Coordinating Board before 1 February 2027;*

Agenda item 2: Process and timeline for the establishment of the Search Committee for the nomination of the next UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director

3 November 2026: PCB Bureau agrees on the overall search process, Search Committee ToR, timeline, nomination process and budget. Secretariat initiates procurement of the search firm.

November–December 2026: Bureau and PCB members develop and finalise the Search Committee ToR, with approval at the 59th PCB meeting (8–10 December).

January 2027: PCB constituencies nominate members of the Search Committee. The Bureau also develops the ToR and performance expectations for the UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director, with intersessional PCB approval by the end of January.

February 2027: Search Committee begins its work, finalises its support mechanism and launches the call for nominations and applications.

End March 2027: Applications and nominations close.

April 2027: Search Committee reviews applications, interviews candidates and establishes a shortlist. The Search Committee Chair submits its report and shortlist to PCB members in mid-April.

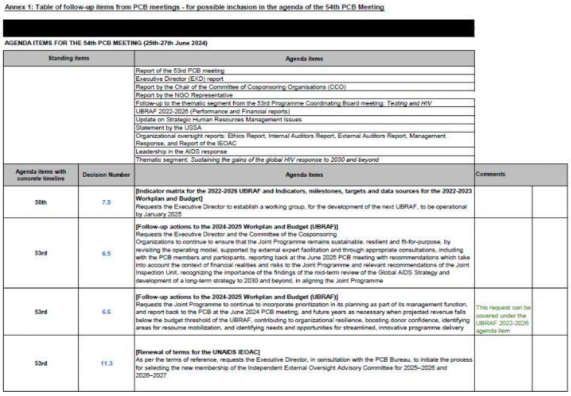
29 June 2027 – 60th PCB: PCB considers the Search Committee report and shortlisted candidates.

July 2027: Search Committee Chair transmits the shortlist, together with PCB comments/recommendations, to the CCO Chair. The CCO then interviews the shortlisted candidates and makes its recommendation to the UN Secretary-General.

UNAIDS

Agenda item 3: Review of the agenda for the 59th PCB meeting

- Agenda setting is based on decisions by the Board at previous PCB meetings.
- These are shown in the table of follow-up items.
- There are two items requiring follow-up at the 59th PCB meeting, which came under the final report and plan of the PCB Working Group on the further transition and integration of UNAIDS into the UN System and beyond.



Annex 1: Table of follow-up items from PCB meetings - for possible inclusion in the agenda of the 54th PCB Meeting

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE 54th PCB MEETING (25th-27th June 2024)

Standing items	Agenda items
	Report of the 53rd PCB meeting
	Executive Director (ED) report
	Report by the Chair of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organisations (CCO)
	Report by the NGO Representative
	Follow-up to the thematic segment from the 53rd Programme Coordinating Board meeting: *Testing and HIV*
	UBRAF 2022-2026 (Performance and Financial reports)
	Update on Strategic Human Resources Management Issues
	Statement by the USSA
	Organizational oversight reports: Ethics Report, Internal Auditors Report, External Auditors Report, Management Response, and Report of the IEOAC
	Leadership in the AIDS response
	Thematic segment: *Sustaining the gains of the global HIV response to 2030 and beyond*

Agenda items with concrete timeline	Decision Number	Agenda items	Comments	
50th	7.5	**[Indicator matrix for the 2022-2026 UBRAF and Indicators, milestones, targets and data sources for the 2022-2023 Workplan and Budget]** Requests the Executive Director to establish a working group, for the development of the next UBRAF, to be operational by January 2025		
53rd	6.5	**[Follow-up actions to the 2024-2025 Workplan and Budget (UBRAF)]** Requests the Executive Director and the Committee of the Cosponsoring Organizations to continue to ensure that the Joint Programme remains sustainable, resilient and fit-for-purpose, by revisiting the operating model, supported by external expert facilitation and through appropriate consultations, including with the PCB members and participants, reporting back at the June 2025 PCB meeting with recommendations which take into account the context of financial realities and risks to the Joint Programme and relevant recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit, recognizing the importance of the findings of the mid-term review of the Global AIDS Strategy and development of a long-term strategy to 2030 and beyond, in aligning the Joint Programme		
53rd	6.6	**[Follow-up actions to the 2024-2025 Workplan and Budget (UBRAF)]** Requests the Joint Programme to continue to incorporate prioritization in its planning as part of its management function, and report back to the PCB at the June 2024 PCB meeting, and future years as necessary when projected revenue falls below the budget threshold of the UBRAF, contributing to organizational resilience, boosting donor confidence, identifying areas for resource mobilization, and identifying needs and opportunities for streamlined, innovative programme delivery	This request can be covered under the UBRAF 2022-2026 agenda item	
53rd	11.3	**[Renewal of terms for the UNAIDS IEOAC]** As per the terms of reference, requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the PCB Bureau, to initiate the process for selecting the new membership of the Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee for 2025–2026 and 2026–2027		

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Possible agenda items

Transition Task Team implementation plan

- **Special Session (3.3)** *Requests the Executive Director to submit the transition Task Team's fully costed implementation plan, with detailed costing of different scenarios including one based on available core resources, in line with the criteria mentioned in the final report of the Working Group, with an initial proposal to be submitted at the 59th PCB meeting, and a final plan to be submitted for intersessional decision-making by end of Q1 2027.*

Process for the selection of the next UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director

- **Special Session (3.5)** *Requests the PCB Bureau to immediately initiate the preparations for the selection process for the next UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director, based on the lessons learned from the previous selection processes, as reflected in document UNAIDS/PCB (45)/19.31 rev1, and submit the Terms of Reference for the Search Committee for the nomination of the UNAIDS Joint Programme Executive Director at the 59th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board;*

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Agenda item 4: Update on preparations for the 59th PCB meeting

Agenda item	PCB Report(s)	Person(s) for coordination
1.2	**Report of the PCB Special Session (26 October 2026)**	UNAIDS Secretariat – Morten Ussing
1.3 & 2	**Report by the Executive Director and Leadership in the AIDS Response**	UNAIDS Secretariat – Morten Ussing
1.4	**Report by the NGO Delegation**	PCB NGO Delegation
3	**Follow-up to the thematic segment from the 58th PCB meeting**	UNAIDS Secretariat – Dasha
4	**Evaluation report**	UNAIDS Secretariat – Adan
6	**Next PCB meetings**	UNAIDS Secretariat – Morten Ussing
7	**Election of officers**	UNAIDS Secretariat – Morten Ussing
8	**Thematic Segment at the 58th PCB meeting on *Beyond 2025: Addressing the impact of funding cuts on people living with, affected by, and at risk of HIV, and on the response to HIV and AIDS***	UNAIDS Secretariat - Jaime

1.2: Report of the Special Session (26 October 2026)

- The report of the previous meeting is a summary of the presentations and discussions held. As is practice, it is cleared by the PCB Bureau prior to being posted online.
- The report is currently being finalized.

Draft decision points*

- *Adopt* the report of the PCB Special Session;

* The final draft DPs for all agenda items at the 59th PCB meeting will be included in the final posted PCB papers.

1.3: Report by the Executive Director

- The report of the Executive Director includes the most important achievements in the global AIDS response since the PCB last met, as well as an emphasis on remaining challenges.
- As is practice, an outline of the report will be posted in advance of the meeting. The full report will be posted following the delivery of the speech at the PCB meeting.

Draft decision points:

- *Take note* of the report of the Executive Director;

2: Leadership in the AIDS response

- For this agenda item, the Executive Director invites high-level speaker(s) to provide a statement.
- The topic and speaker(s) have not been confirmed yet.

1.4: Report by the NGO representative

- The title of the report is ***Safeguarding Community Leadership in the Future of the Global HIV Response***.
- The report draws on a multi-stakeholder consultation process, including an online survey with 46 respondents from community-led and civil society organizations, six key informant interviews, contributions from seven partner organizations, two workshops with NGO Delegation members, and review by NGO Delegation members and governance and technical experts from the UNAIDS Secretariat.
- **Key messages:**
  - Institutionalize community participation in HIV governance at all levels.
  - Move beyond consultation towards genuine power-sharing and co-leadership.
  - Ensure predictable and sustainable resources for community participation and leadership.
  - Ensure that representation is self-determined, inclusive, and rights-centred.
  - Strengthen mutual accountability and safeguard community leadership throughout the UNAIDS transition.

3: Follow-up to the thematic segment from the 58th PCB meeting

- Summary report of the presentations and discussion from the thematic segment held on *Beyond 2025: Countering health inequities through sustaining the HIV response, human rights and harm reduction for people who use drugs.*
- The report, including the draft decisions, was sent to the Bureau members on 30 October 2026 for review.
- The decision points encapsulate the key issues that were discussed by diverse speakers during the thematic segment as well as emanating from the background note produced for the thematic segment.

3: Follow-up to the thematic segment from the 58th PCB meeting

Key messages:

- Countries are urged to recognize and fund harm reduction as an essential, evidence-based, rights-affirming and cost-effective component of the HIV response to accelerate progress towards achieving the global AIDS targets on prevention, ending stigma and discrimination, integration and community leadership.
- Account for the needs of people who use drugs in their diversity, including women and youth, LGBTI persons, sex workers, people in humanitarian settings and people in prisons
- Integrate harm reduction into national budgets and health systems, in ways that strengthen and sustain community leadership, including through social contracting
- Remove criminal sanctions for drug use and possession for personal use to improve access to HIV services
- Ensure that organizations led by people who use drugs and wider civil society which are engaged in harm reduction advocacy, service delivery and accountability processes can freely register, operate and apply for domestic and international funding.
- Collect and use disaggregated data, including community-generated data, to understand gaps in services and support decision-making on planning of HIV services for people who use drugs and targeted investment in harm reduction.

7: Next PCB Meetings and 8: Election of Officers

- The PCB paper 'Next PCB meetings' includes the proposed dates for the PCB meetings in 2029, along with the proposed thematic segments for the 60th and 61st PCB meeting in 2027.
- The 'Election of officers' agenda item will include the Bureau officers for 2027 and the composition of the NGO delegation for approval at the 59th PCB.

8: Thematic Segment on *Addressing the impact of funding cuts on people living with, affected by, and at risk of HIV, and on the response to HIV and AIDS*

Key messages:

- Funding cuts are compounding existing inequalities and threatening the foundations of the HIV response.
- Protecting treatment is essential, but safeguarding the full treatment–prevention continuum is imperative.
- Community leadership and independent civil society action must be recognised and protected as essential components of sustainable HIV responses.
- Sustainability requires financing arrangements that protect essential functions, preserve equity and strengthen national ownership without abandoning international solidarity.
- The transition must be guided by accountability, better evidence and simultaneous action to protect, adapt and transform the response.

Agenda item 5: Update on the implementation of the UNAIDS 2026 evaluation plan: The Director of Evaluation will present to the Bureau the semi-annual update on the implementation of the UNAIDS 2026 evaluation plan

[End of document]