



Notes from the third meeting of the Working Group of the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) to strengthen the PCB's monitoring and evaluation role on zero tolerance against harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and abuse of power at UNAIDS

DATE: 25 March 2019

VENUE: "Virtual" meeting and Conference Room 5, UNAIDS Headquarters, Geneva

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The Chair opened the meeting and updated the Working Group on developments since the previous meeting (held on March 21). She briefed colleagues on guidance that had been received from the Chair of the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) Bureau regarding the agenda for the Special Session of the PCB (scheduled for March 28) and expectations regarding the Working Group's input at that session.

2. DRAFT STATEMENT FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

2. Working Group members discussed the process for finalizing the statement for the Special Session. It was suggested that, since the PCB was not expecting a specific and guiding text, an oral statement based on text prepared by the Chair should suffice. Members were in general agreement with the draft text prepared by the Chair and said it reflected the main issues raised at previous Working Group meetings. They proposed some specific edits.
3. The Chair described the agenda and structuring of discussions at the Special Session, based on guidance received from PCB Bureau. Members felt that the Session was an important opportunity to share views, but thought it was not likely that firm decisions would be taken at that meeting.
4. Summarizing the discussion, the Chair said there was general support from the Working Group for the draft oral statement to the Special Session. Proposed edits to the draft would be incorporated in an off-line process. The Chair would provide a consolidated revision by the end of the day (25 March) for quick turnaround on the following day.
5. A proposed note updating the UN Secretary General on progress related to the issue of harassment, bullying and abuse of power was discussed. There were differing views on whether the Working Group was expected to present such a note to the Special Sessions. However, it was also suggested that delaying a draft note until the PCB session in June 2019 may not signal the requisite urgency.
6. The Chair said that the guidance appeared to call for the Working Group to take aboard discussions at the Special Session as a basis for further refining a potential statement to the Secretary General. However, the Working Group did not have sufficient time to build consensus on this issue and agreed not to present draft messaging to 28 March PCB meeting.
7. Working Group members felt it would be useful if, after the Special Session, the Group had clear guidance regarding next steps, expected actions and tasks, and timeframes for its work.

3. OTHER PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD

8. The meeting briefly discussed the agenda for the Special Session, noting that agenda was the prerogative of the PCB Bureau. Members felt that the overall intention appeared to be for the Special Session to serve as an opportunity to update the PCB on actions taken or ongoing and to have a frank dialogue.

9. The meeting was informed that some constituencies were impatient for quick, tangible action from the Secretariat. There were concerns that a recurrence of the disagreements aired at the 43rd session of the PCB in December 2018 around the report of the Independent Expert Panel was undesirable and would undermine the unified actions that were required. Members shared anticipated questions and topics to which the Working Group Chair should be prepared to respond.
10. The Chair said she would revise the oral statement text for the PCB based on discussions and would prepare a set of anticipated questions along with draft answers for comment from the Working Group.

4. NOTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

11. The Chair reminded the meeting to share comments on the meeting notes as soon as possible.
12. The Chair closed the meeting.

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