

Summary of the PCB Bureau meeting of 1 December 2008

Present: David Hohman (USA), Allehone Mulugeta Abebe (Ethiopia), Teguest Guerma and Andrew Ball (WHO, representing Cosponsors), Michael O'Connor (Representing PCB NGOs) joined by phone.

Absent: Stephanie Hochstetter Skinner-Klee (Guatemala)

UNAIDS Secretariat: Helen Frary (BUR), Yuki Takemoto (BUR), Shona Wynd (TOS), Nina Allen (PCB Thematic Segment Coordinator, TOS)

Meeting's agenda:

1. Update on Thematic Segment, 23rdPCB meeting
2. Update on Regular Segment, 23rdPCB meeting
3. Any other business

1. Update on Thematic Segment, 23rdPCB meeting

- The Secretariat provided a brief update on preparations for the thematic segment at the 23rd PCB meeting.
 - The concept note and agenda are now available on the UNAIDS website. Minor edits were made to the version that was shared at the last Bureau meeting.
 - To date, 95% of the invited participants have confirmed their attendance.
- The plenary portion of the thematic segment (as well as the opening of the 23rd PCB meeting) will now be chaired by Mr. David Hohman¹ as Ambassador Dybul is only able to arrive on Tuesday, 16 December.

2. Update on Regular Segment, 23rdPCB meeting

1) Report of the International Task Team on HIV-related Travel Restrictions

- Following the second call from the Secretariat to member states for comments on one of the Conference Room Papers ("*Country mapping of restrictions on the entry, stay and residence of people living with HIV*") under this agenda item, requests for revision have been received from five countries so far. Each request undergoes a process of verification by the Task Team after which the document is updated accordingly.
- Comments received before Friday, 5 December will be incorporated into the revised document to be made available through the UNAIDS website on Monday, 8 December. However, member states will be reminded that the validation process will continue beyond the 23rd PCB meeting to ensure the validity of the report and its accompanying documents before the final publication.

¹ Following the Bureau meeting, the Secretariat was informed that Ms. Moloney-Kitts, who was originally scheduled to replace Ambassador Dybul, will no longer be attending the 23rd PCB meeting.

2) Gender-sensitivity of AIDS responses

- The Secretariat informed the Bureau that there will be an additional Conference Room Paper for this agenda item that is expected from UNDP some time this week.²

3) Briefings

- The Secretariat reported on the briefings that had been organized so far for the 23rd PCB meeting (Missions in Geneva, Friends of UNAIDS and the Africa group).

4) List of participants

- The provisional list of participants will be made available on the UNAIDS website on Monday, 8 December.

3. Any other business

1) PCB Operational Matters

- Based on input from some member states, the Chair will propose some minor edits to improve the clarity of the text when introducing agenda item 6.1 (*“Review of the process for PCB inter-sessional decision making”* -UNAIDS/PCB(23)/08.30) to the Board. Some concerns were raised about the potential for the Bureau to overstep its authority and interfere in the decision making of the Board. However, it was reaffirmed that, as stated in the document, this process will only *“be used by the Bureau in meeting its mandated functions from the Board”* (paragraph 8). The Bureau was reminded that the current text had been reviewed and revised by the Legal Counsel.
- The PCG NGOs proposed some possible edits to the document for agenda item 6.1 (mentioned above) and 6.2 (*“Implementation of previous PCB decisions”* - UNAIDS/PCB/(23)/08.24). It was agreed that the PCB NGOs would raise them in the Board meeting if they so wish.

→ **Follow-up action: The Secretariat will report back to the Bureau on when and how the practice of PCB NGO alternates originated. – DONE (5 December)**

2) Increased involvement of civil society in the PCB

- The Chair mentioned that the Friends of the UNAIDS as a group plans to send a request to the Secretariat shortly³ for a Conference Room Paper to assess the functioning of the Communications Facility, including a financial report.
- The Secretariat promised to forward the request to the PCB NGOs when received as it lacks the competency to provide the information requested and the PCB NGO representative confirmed that the requested information shall be provided in a timely manner.

² Following the Bureau meeting, the Conference Room Paper *“Addressing Women, Girls Gender Inequality and HIV: A mapping of global, regional and multi-country activities by UNAIDS and UNIFEM”* was received by the Secretariat and made available on the UNAIDS website on 4 December.

³ A written request was received from the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands on behalf of the Friends of UNAIDS on Tuesday, 2 December and subsequently forwarded to the PCB NGOs. The Conference Room Paper *“Role of the Civil Society Communications and Consultation Facility in supporting the PCB NGOs”* was made available on the UNAIDS website on 5 December.