

**UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD WORKING GROUP  
THEMATIC SEGMENT FOR THE 41<sup>st</sup> PCB MEETING**

**Zero discrimination in health care settings**

At its 39<sup>th</sup> meeting, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) agreed that the theme for its 41<sup>st</sup> meeting will be “*Zero discrimination in health care settings.*” The Thematic Segment will take place on 14th December 2017.

The Thematic Segment will examine how discrimination in health care settings creates barriers to reaching the prevention and 90-90-90 targets, and will provide an opportunity to review best practices in reducing such discrimination. It will also provide a platform for reflecting on how to set time-bound targets for zero discrimination and to scale up programmes to reduce discrimination through targeted, coordinated, multisectoral and evidence-informed actions.

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**MEETING SUMMARY**

DATE: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**PARTICIPANTS**

(See attached list)

**MEETING AGENDA**

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Presentation of the draft outline of the Background Note on *Zero Discrimination in Health Care settings*
3. Discussion on the draft outline of the Background Note
4. Way forward
5. Any other business

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**SUMMARY**

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Morten Ussing, Chief of Governance and Multilateral Affairs, UNAIDS Secretariat, welcomed the PCB Working Group to its first meeting for the preparation of the Thematic Segment of the 41<sup>st</sup> PCB on *Zero Discrimination in Health Care Settings*.

He recalled that the purpose of having a PCB WG prepare the thematic segment is to ensure that PCB constituencies have ownership of the process, and to get input from the stakeholders on what issues should be covered in the background note and the agenda of the thematic segment.

Mr. Ussing explained that the thematic segment working group usually meets three times. The first meeting is dedicated to reviewing the draft outline of the background note. The first draft of the background note is discussed at the second meeting. The third meeting is

dedicated to a discussion about the agenda and possible speakers. If necessary, a fourth meeting of the working group may also be organised.

Mr Ussing recalled that only PCB members are invited to join the thematic segment working group. However, constituencies may participate through the PCB members who have joined the group. He also indicated that some key partners may be invited to the PCB working group such as the Global Fund.

## **2. PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE BACKGROUND NOTE ON HIV PREVENTION 2020: A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DELIVERY**

As an introduction, Luisa Cabal, Special Adviser on Human Rights and Gender, UNAIDS Secretariat, provided a brief background on the Joint Programme's work on zero discrimination in healthcare settings. She mentioned that together with WHO, the Secretariat launched the Agenda for Zero Discrimination in Health Care Settings in 2015 and this year 12 UN system organizations issued a joint statement on ending discrimination in health care.

Andrea Boccardi, Senior Adviser on Community Support, UNAIDS Secretariat, provided background on the process of developing the draft outline and walked the meeting participants through the suggested content.

## **3. DISCUSSION ON THE FIRST DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE BACKGROUND NOTE ON HIV PREVENTION 2020: A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DELIVERY**

The PCB working group welcomed the draft outline of the Background Note and commended the Secretariat on a good first draft.

Specific comments on the draft outline included the following:

### **Member States**

- Commended on the good first draft of the outline.
- Noted that this was a timely discussion at the PCB and that these issues are being discussed also at other forums, such as the Human Rights Council and the World Health Assembly.
- Supported having the SDGs as a guiding framework.
- Recognised that the Secretariat had a difficult task to balance the inclusion of all relevant issues and topics to be covered in just one day.
- Noted that while it is important to create an enabling legal environment, it may not be possible to cover the broader issues during the thematic segment and suggested that the background note focuses more on the health care settings.
- Some emphasised the importance of including issues related to equal access to sexual and reproductive health services, and issues related to autonomous decision-making (as per the SDG indicator 6.5.1).
- Some also stressed the importance of mentioning more explicitly the discrimination experienced by LGBT individuals as well as gender based discrimination and of naming key populations and vulnerable groups throughout the document.
- Emphasised the importance of involvement and participation of health staff in the design and implementation of non-discrimination training.
- Suggested the inclusion of the development of norms, protocols and guidelines in the "solutions" section as an additional measure to positively encourage and ensure access to health services, especially for key populations.
- Welcomed the approach taken with regard to the health workforce.

## **PCB NGO Delegation**

- Commended the Secretariat for a good first draft of the outline of the Background Note and mentioned that the civil society advisory group that had provided feedback was very happy with the subject and the draft outline.
- Suggested the use of all relevant UNAIDS materials and resources as building blocks for the Background Note, including the Fast Track and Human Rights publication.
- Stressed that it would be important to explicitly mention indigenous populations, mobile and displaced populations and migrants in the Background Note and to name drug use and sex work more clearly as bases for discrimination.
- Suggested the inclusion of a financial analysis of how much money is being lost due to stigma and discrimination in health care settings, looking at the impact not only on individuals but also on health systems.
- Suggested including an emphasis on multiple forms of discrimination in prisons or other places of detention where members of certain populations (e.g. indigenous people, racial/ethnic groups, migrants etc.) are multiply vulnerable.

## **Cosponsors**

- Commended on the draft outline of the Background Note.
- Suggested having a broader focus, not just in the context of HIV but in relation to sexual and reproductive health and discrimination based on gender, race, religion, etc.
- Suggested making links to the SDGs clear and concrete throughout the text.
- Stressed the importance of highlighting the stigma and discrimination experienced by men and women living with HIV, as well as by key and vulnerable populations, and particularly discrimination towards young women and girls (including consent laws and regulations).
- Suggested including indigenous populations.
- Emphasised the importance of highlighting political, social and legal angles of discrimination in health care.
- Suggested the use of the report of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law and the UNAIDS Gap Report as reference materials for the Background Note.
- Emphasised the importance of including a focus on migrants, refugees and emergency contexts.
- Welcomed the recognition of the nuanced understanding of the rights, roles and responsibilities of the health workforce and their own vulnerability in terms of precarious work contracts, violence at the workplace and gender based discrimination.

## **4. WAY FORWARD**

Luisa Cabal assured the meeting participants that the suggestions and feedback of the members of the Working Group will be taken into consideration in the development of the background note.

Morten Ussing mentioned that the working group members could send written comments on the draft outline until COB Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. He also mentioned that the call for submissions of best practice case studies was going to be sent out by COB Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> September.

Mr Ussing noted that the timeline had shifted a little because the first working group meeting was postponed to allow as many members of the group as possible to participate.

The PCB Working Group agreed on the proposed following revised timeline:

**By 15 September:**

- Comments on the draft outline of the background paper received from the PCB thematic segment working group members
- Call for submissions of good practice case studies circulated to permanent missions

**Second week of October:** First draft of the background note shared with the thematic segment working group

**Third week of October:** Second meeting of the thematic segment working group (discussion and comments on the draft background note)

**Fourth week of October:** written comments received by the working group members on the draft background note

**Early November:** second draft of the background note shared with the working group

**Second week of November:** Background note finalised and sent for translation

**Mid-November:** third meeting of the working group (discussion on the agenda, format of the day and suggested speakers)

**Thursday 14 December:** PCB Thematic Segment on zero discrimination in healthcare settings

**June 2018:** 42nd PCB meeting: Follow-up to the Thematic Segment (summary report with possibly decision points following Bureau's decision).

## 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Morten Ussing mentioned that the upcoming Human Rights Council Social Forum focuses on the theme of promotion and protection of *human rights in the context of HIV and other communicable diseases and epidemics*.

He explained that the Social Forum is an annual event of the Human Rights Council and that this year's forum is co-chaired by Brazil and Belarus. The Forum is open to participation by everyone – Member States and civil society – whether they are HRC members or not.

Mr Ussing also noted that many of the issues to be discussed at the Social Forum will be relevant for the thematic segment and that it is also an opportunity to build links and synergies with responses to other epidemics, such as Zika, Ebola, TB, and Hepatitis.

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