

**UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD WORKING GROUP  
THEMATIC SEGMENT FOR THE 41st 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 41st 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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**SUMMARY OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP**

DATE: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017

**PARTICIPANTS**

(See attached list)

**MEETING AGENDA**

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Presentation of the first draft of the Background Note for the Thematic Segment on *Zero Discrimination in Health Care settings*
3. Discussion on the draft outline of the Background Note
4. Presentation of the draft Agenda for the Thematic Segment
5. Comments on the draft Agenda
6. Way forward

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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 second meeting for the preparation of the Thematic Segment of the 41<sup>st</sup> PCB on *Zero Discrimination in Health Care Settings*.

Mr. Ussing mentioned that the meeting focused on two things: comments on the draft background paper as well as on the draft agenda for the Thematic day. He explained that the intention is that the Background Note and the Agenda would be well connected and that the contents of the Background Note would steer the discussions during the thematic segment. He informed the participants that the meeting would be recorded to ensure all comments and inputs will be adequately captured.

Mr Ussing also mentioned that as an institutional practice, UNAIDS Secretariat would give the working group members until the end of the week to send in written comments on the draft Background Note and the Agenda.

## **2. PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE BACKGROUND NOTE ON ZERO DISCRIMINATION IN HEALTH-CARE SETTINGS**

Andrea Boccardi, Senior Adviser on Community Support, UNAIDS Secretariat, introduced the draft Background Note to the Thematic Segment on *Zero discrimination in health-care settings*.

## **3. DISCUSSION ON THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE BACKGROUND NOTE**

The PCB working group welcomed the draft Background Note. Specific comments included the following:

### **Member States**

- Commended on the good and comprehensive first draft.
- Suggested elaborating on the issue of human rights education and training for health care professionals and emphasising the importance of involving health professionals themselves in the development of training materials.
- Suggested including a stronger reference to the notion of health literacy to ensure empowerment of service users to know their rights.
- Suggested addressing the issue of interculturality more broadly, not only in relation to indigenous populations.
- Emphasised the importance of intersectionality of discrimination in health care settings and suggested explicitly mentioning issues such as age, disability, mental health conditions in the text and in the recommendations.
- Suggested explicitly mentioning refugees as one of the populations experiencing discrimination in health care settings.

### **PCB NGO Delegation**

- Commended the Secretariat for a good first draft of the Background Note
- Noted that the NGO delegation was pleased to see the issue discussed from a human rights perspective since many of the populations experiencing discrimination do not know their rights.
- Expressed appreciation for the inclusion of the issue of under-monitoring of certain populations in the document and suggested emphasising further the need to reach the hardest to reach first.
- Welcomed the data showing how punitive laws and practices impact on late presentation to HIV care.
- Requested that the UNAIDS Fast Track and Human Rights Guidance Note to be used as a resource document.

### **Cosponsors**

- Commended on the draft Background Note.
- Suggested including an executive summary.
- Suggested the inclusion of the WHO criteria on people-centred health services, perhaps in a text box.
- Suggested strengthening of the section on community led services, emphasising the important role of civil society as providers of complementary services and in ensuring a rights-based approach. Suggested mentioning social contracting.

- Emphasised the importance of including the perspective of health workers living with HIV to remind that HIV affects us all.
- Suggested also addressing the male inequities in terms of health outcomes and service access.

#### **4. PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE THEMATIC SEGMENT**

Luisa Cabal, Special Adviser on Human Rights and Gender, UNAIDS Secretariat, presented the draft agenda, explaining that the proposed agenda is solutions and best practice focused and that the idea is to highlight the perspectives of both health care users and of health care providers.

#### **5. COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT AGENDA**

The PCB working group welcomed the draft agenda. Specific comments included the following:

##### **Member States:**

- Expressed agreement with the approach to the agenda
- Emphasised the importance of hearing both the health user as well as the health provider perspectives, perhaps through dialogue between the two.
- Noted the importance of addressing broader discrimination, focusing on groups that have historically been discriminated against.

##### **NGO Delegation:**

- Welcomed the focus on solutions.
- Emphasised the importance of hearing the perspective of health care providers, including those living with HIV.

##### **Cosponsors:**

- No specific comments expressed.

#### **6. WAY FORWARD**

Morten Ussing outlined the next steps and the way forward:

- Working group members have until COB Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October to send written comments on the draft Background Note.
- The Secretariat will circulate the second draft of the Background Paper to the Working Group for written comments.
- The third and final meeting of the working group will focus on the format of the day and the speakers.
- Any suggestions on speakers should be sent as soon as possible with the objective of finalising the agenda by mid-November.

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