Zero discrimination in health care settings

At its 39th 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.

SUMMARY OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

DATE: Thursday 9th November 2017

PARTICIPANTS

(See attached list)

MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Presentation of the draft Agenda, suggested format and speakers for the Thematic Segment
3. Discussion on the draft Agenda, format and speakers
4. Way forward

SUMMARY

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Morten Ussing, Chief of Governance and Multilateral Affairs, UNAIDS Secretariat, welcomed the PCB Working Group to its third and last meeting for the preparation of the Thematic Segment of the 41st PCB on Zero Discrimination in Health Care Settings. He explained that the second version of the Background Note had been shared with the Working Group for written comments but that the focus of the meeting would be on the draft Agenda which had also been shared with the group.

Mr. Ussing mentioned that ideas and proposals for the Agenda had already been received based on the earlier version shared with the Working Group and that some of the suggestions for names had already been included on the draft Agenda for consideration by the working group members. Mr. Ussing explained that the objective of the meeting was to receive comments and reactions from the constituencies on the proposed ideas.
Mr. Ussing also mentioned that the lesson learnt from previous PCBs was that there often was not enough time for interventions from the floor and welcomed guidance from the working group on this. He explained that panels take more time than interventions from the floor and it may therefore be useful to plan for more interventions from the floor.

Mr Ussing also explained that usually the Thematic Segment has an opening session, a session dedicated to presenting relevant data and panel discussions.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

Ms. Luisa Cabal, Special Adviser on Human Rights and Gender, UNAIDS Secretariat, introduced the draft Agenda.

Ms. Cabal explained that it was proposed that the day would be opened by the Executive Director of UNAIDS, Michel Sidibe, followed by a session which would allow both health service users and health-care providers to share their experiences and perspectives on discrimination in health-care settings. The reality of what people are experiencing would then be tied to what the data is telling us and to how to move from challenges to solutions. The panel discussions would focus on good practices and showcase leadership, accountability and funding. Intersectionality of discrimination would also be discussed.

Mr. Ussing added that the theme of stigma and discrimination will also be discussed during the first two days of the PCB. There is an agenda item focusing on the update on the Joint Programme’s actions on stigma and discrimination in all its forms and there are also obvious links to the follow up to the Prevention thematic and to the agenda item on prisons.

3. DISCUSSION

The PCB working group welcomed the second draft of the Background Note and the draft Agenda for the Thematic Segment. Specific comments included the following:

Member States

- Commended the Secretariat for the draft Background Note and the draft Agenda.
- Emphasised the importance of the voice of health workers and suggested having a dialogue between health service users and health workers during the thematic day.
- Some welcomed the inclusion of the Global Fund on the agenda and enquired whether the results of recent country assessments carried out by the Global Fund could be presented during the thematic.

PCB NGO Delegation

- Noted that the delegation would send further comments on the draft Background Note by the deadline.

Cosponsors:

- Commended the Secretariat for an excellent Background Note.
- Suggested including information about the Global Commission on HIV and the Law in the Background Note.
- Welcomed the draft Agenda of the Thematic Segment.

6. WAY FORWARD
Morten Ussing mentioned that the Secretariat would welcome comments on the draft Background Note until COB Monday 13th November. He also mentioned that suggestions on speakers should be sent as soon as possible.