

## UNAIDS PCB Bureau meeting

DATE: Wednesday 22 April 2020

TIME: 16:00-17:00 (Geneva time)

VENUE: Skype meeting (Virtual)

### Participants

**PCB Bureau:** Ms Julia Martin and Ms Deana Jordan Sullivan (United States of America: representing the Chair); Ambassador Penda Andreas Naanda and Ms Xungileni Martha Galukeni Chitundu (Namibia: representing the Vice-chair); Dr. Sadre Alam (India: representing the Rapporteur); Ludo Bok (representing the CCO Chair, UNDP) and Mr Jonathan Gunthorp and Mr Andrew Spieldenner (representing the NGO Delegation)

**UNAIDS Secretariat:** Mr Morten Ussing, Director, Governance and Multilateral Affairs; Ms Samia Lounnas, Senior Governance Advisor, Governance and Multilateral Affairs

### MEETING DRAFT AGENDA

#### 1. Discussion on feedback provided during the intersessional decision making process

*The Bureau will review the feedback provided from the intersessional process and finalize the agenda for the 46th meeting of the PCB.*

#### 2. Any other business

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#### 1. Discussion on feedback provided during the intersessional decision making process

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked participants for joining. Ms Martin provided a brief summary regarding the steps taken for the intersessional decision making process: following the fourth meeting of the PCB Bureau, the Bureau's proposal on options for the 46th meeting of the PCB had been shared via email with PCB members for intersessional decision making. Following the deadline of Friday, 17 April 2020, 20 responses had been received; of those, 19 Member States agreed with the proposal of the PCB Bureau and 1 Member State disagreed. Two Member States did not vote.

The Chair recalled the provisions of the Modus Operandi regarding intersessional decision making:

- “ii. If a quorum (15) is reached, in terms of the answers received to the decision point by the established deadline, the responsible body will act in accordance with the majority view.”

The Chair noted the quorum had been reached and the four decision points had passed:

1. Agree that the 46th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board will be held virtually on 23-25 June 2020, the dates set forth in decision 9.3 of the 41st meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board;
2. Decide that, in light of the exceptional global health crisis due to COVID-19, the 46th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board will consist only of a decision making segment;
3. Agree that:
  - a. The thematic segment scheduled for the 46th Programme Coordinating Board meeting, Cervical cancer and HIV- addressing linkages and common inequalities to save women’s lives, will be postponed to the 47th Programme Coordinating Board meeting in December 2020; and
  - b. The thematic segment scheduled for the 47th Programme Coordinating Board meeting, What does the regional and country-level data tell us, are we listening, and how can we better leverage that data and related technology to meet our 2020 and 2030 goals?, will be postponed to 2021; and
4. Agree that the 47th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board, scheduled for 15-17 December 2020, will include an additional day to accommodate postponed agenda items.

The main agenda of this Bureau meeting was to review the comments received during the intersessional process and to subsequently finalize the agenda of the 46th meeting based on these comments. The consolidated comments were shared by the Secretariat prior to the meeting.

The Bureau reviewed and discussed the submitted comments.

**Revision of the agenda:** Comments submitted by members included proposals to:

- Streamline the agenda to provide adequate time for discussion on key agenda items
- Identify priority items such as Report of the EXD, COVID-19 and HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS Strategy beyond 2021, implementation of the Management Action Plan, and Report of the Working Group of the JIU.
- Explore creative solutions for agenda items including intersessional decision making for some agenda items; requesting no member state statements for some agenda items; submitting written statements in advance of virtual meeting; having virtual Q&A sessions ahead of meeting; hosting virtual briefings on agenda items that are largely “for your information”
- Share papers and presentations (possibly pre-recorded) in advance to facilitate participation
- Monitor agenda items that will require more time at the meeting

Members of the Bureau recognized the need to prioritize and maximize the agenda particularly in view of the virtual meeting. The Chair proposed systematically reviewing the agenda item by item to consider options to postpone or handle in an alternative manner.

- **Reports of Executive Director and CCO:** Bureau members agreed that these reports must be maintained and will provide an important window into how the Joint Programme is responding to and operating in light of the COVID-19 crisis.
- **COVID-19:** Some Bureau members raised the possibility of removing this as a separate agenda item to shorten the agenda given that the Executive Director and the CCO will both speak to COVID-19 and the HIV response in their presentations.
- **UNAIDS Strategy beyond 2021:** Bureau members reiterated the importance of the development of the UNAIDS Strategy beyond 2021 and felt the PCB will be a crucial moment to provide input and direction the Joint Programme.
- **UBRAF:** As the primary mechanism of performance reporting and financial oversight, members agreed on the importance of maintaining the report in June.
- **Updates on Task Team on Community-led Responses and JIU Working Group:** Given the brevity of the update, members proposed reviewing options to provide alternative presentations for these items.
- **Human Resources Update, Statement by the UNAIDS Staff Association, Organizational Oversight Reports and the Management Action Plan Implementation:** Bureau members noted that some member states had expressed a priority for maintaining these items on the agenda in their comments. Given their thematic similarities and the importance of hearing from the UNAIDS Staff Association, Bureau members also recognized the PCB's role in continued oversight during this period.

The Bureau discussed a variety of potential options to consider reducing the time allocated to the agenda items, including focusing decision making on “taking note” of the reports, providing written statements in advance, and holding consultations on key agenda items with anticipated decision points prior to the meeting. The Bureau further stressed the importance of providing papers and presentations in advance to support members in reviewing prior to the meeting.

#### **Length of meeting:**

- Members commented that 3 days of 4-hour sessions is lengthy for a virtual meeting.

The PCB Bureau acknowledged the need to handle the meeting efficiently but noted that, given the importance of the above agenda items, it is anticipated that the number of days for the meeting will remain at three. The Chair will aim to identify opportunities to shorten the length of each daily session based on consideration of potentially addressing some agenda items in advance of the meeting in their upcoming proposal on the agenda to the Bureau.

#### **Equitable Participation:**

- Concern regarding equitable participation via virtual meeting and need for proactive solutions to ensure equal engagement
- Timing will be a key issue for participants from country.
- Civil society participation must be ensured.
- Concern for differing resources and connectivity and internet capacity, including securing platforms and minimizing disruptions of signals

Bureau members stressed that equitable participation must be ensured and necessary steps to support members must be taken. The Secretariat is currently exploring options for this support and will work closely with civil society and member state representatives from capitals. The Secretariat also reminded members that the PCB meeting would be open to observers as well.

**Meeting privacy:**

- In light of security concerns raised regarding multiple virtual meeting platforms, how will identification, verification and authorization of participants be ensured? What modes will be applied?

The Secretariat is currently working to explore options for online platforms with a focus on security concerns. Potential options could include passwords and unique IDs and locking the meeting. The PCB Bureau and the Secretariat will work closely on the identification of the platform and on measures to ensure security.

**Procedures for decision making:**

- What are the procedures for decision making, especially for those of a contentious nature?
- Open to holding drafting groups prior to the meeting to finalize decisions

The meeting will focus on taking note of reports and minimizing decision making. Options for items with more extensive decision making will be explored and communicated to the PCB. Bureau members noted the importance of communicating with member states and constituencies on opportunities for input in advance of the meeting.

**Multilingualism:**

- It is necessary to ensure the simultaneous interpretation in six languages.

The Bureau echoed the importance of ensuring simultaneous interpretation. The Secretariat is working closely on determining the best platform for doing so.

The Bureau noted that multiple UN organizations are currently making similar decisions, and the PCB could benefit from lessons learned from these experiences.

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to consult the PCB legal counsel on the available options. The Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, will then provide a proposal for handling the agenda items for consideration by the Bureau on the basis of these discussions.

**2. AOB**

The Chair closed the meeting.