

NEXT PCB MEETINGS

Additional documents for this item: *none*

Action required at this meeting—the Programme Coordinating Board is invited to:

See draft decision points in the paragraphs below:

5. *Agree* that the themes for the 48th and 49th Programme Coordinating Board thematic segments will be:

- a. *COVID-19 and HIV: sustaining HIV gains and building back better and fairer HIV responses*
- b. *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 2025 and 2030 goals?*

6. *Request* the Programme Coordinating Board Bureau to take appropriate and timely steps to ensure that due process is followed in the call for themes for the 50th and 51st Programme Coordinating Board meetings;

7. *Agree* on the dates for the 52nd (27-29 June 2023) and the 53rd (12-14 December 2023) meetings of the Programme Coordinating Board.

Cost implications for the implementation of the decisions: none

THEMES FOR THE 48TH AND 49TH PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD MEETINGS

1. At its 20th meeting in June 2007, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board decided that future Board meetings will consist of a decision-making segment and a thematic segment (ref. PCB 20/rec.10a). Further to this decision, the 21st meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board in December 2007 discussed the modalities for the identification of themes and agreed on a process whereby; *“the theme for the Programme Coordinating Board thematic segments should be decided by the Board upon recommendation of the Programme Coordinating Board Bureau. This recommendation should be based upon a call for proposals directed to all PCB constituencies and possibly other key actors...”* (ref. UNAIDS/PCB (21)/07.5 para.9). The Programme Coordinating Board also agreed that proposed themes should be considered on the basis of four criteria: broad relevance, responsiveness, focus, and scope for action. At its 45th meeting in December 2019, the Board requested the Programme Coordinating Board Bureau to take appropriate and timely steps to ensure that due process is followed in the call for themes for the 48th and 49th Programme Coordinating Board meetings (ref. PCB 45/ dec.12.2).

PROCESS OF SELECTION OF THEMES FOR THE 48th AND 49th BOARD MEETINGS

2. As agreed through the intersessional paper, *Reorganisation of the 2020 UNAIDS PCB meetings in view of the COVID-19 crisis*, the thematic segment originally scheduled for the 47th Programme Coordinating Board meeting, *What does 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?*, was postponed to 2021.
3. Accordingly, the Programme Coordinating Board Bureau sent out a call to all Board Members in August 2020 inviting proposals for themes for the 49th Programme Coordinating Board meetings to be held in December 2020.
4. At its meeting on 12 November, the Bureau considered the 3 proposals (listed below) that were submitted, giving due consideration to criteria in paragraph 1 above, as well as other factors including: the level and diversity of support; urgency of the issue; whether the issue was being considered elsewhere; inclusion of the theme as a sub-issue under a broader or related theme; and, the suitability of the theme to be addressed by the Board at a particular time.
 - **Proposal 1:** COVID-19 and HIV: sustaining HIV gains and building back better and fairer HIV responses (WHO, supported by Brazil, UK, PCB NGOs, and all cosponsors)
 - **Proposal 2:** Meeting the needs of the unreached and promoting their rights: the case of people with disabilities (UNFPA)
 - **Proposal 3:** Reinvigorating Country Stewardship for HIV Prevention amidst COVID-19: A New Generation of National AIDS Commissions (NAC Executive Directors/CEOs of GPC member countries)
5. The Bureau acknowledged the merit of the 3 proposals and proposed to incorporate elements of the theme, ***Reinvigorating Country Stewardship for HIV Prevention amidst COVID-19: A new generation of National AIDS Commissions***, into the theme, ***COVID-19 and HIV: sustaining HIV gains and building back better and fairer HIV responses***. The combined proposal is included in the annex below.
6. The PCB Bureau decided given the quality and timeliness of the proposals, to propose the theme, ***COVID-19 and HIV: sustaining HIV gains and building back better and fairer HIV responses***, for the Thematic Segment of the 48th PCB meeting in June 2021

and the proposal, ***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 2025 and 2030 goals?***, the thematic segment of the 49th PCB meeting in December 2021.

7. Given that the 50th and 51st meetings of the Programme Coordinating Board are scheduled respectively for June and December 2022, **the Programme Coordinating Board is invited to request** the Bureau to take appropriate and timely steps to ensure that due process is followed in the call for themes for the 50th and 51st Programme Coordinating Board meetings.

DATES FOR THE NEXT PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD MEETINGS

8. **The Programme Coordinating Board is invited to agree the following dates for the Board meetings:**
 - 52nd meeting: 27th, 28th, and 29th June 2023
 - 53rd meeting: 12th, 13th and 14th December 2023

[Annexes follow]

ANNEX 1

Proposed theme for the 48th Programme Coordinating Board meeting (June 2021)

COVID-19 and HIV: sustaining HIV gains and building back better and fairer HIV responses

Theme Proposed by: WHO and NAC Executive Directors/CEOs of GPC member countries, supported by Brazil, UK, PCB NGOs, and all cosponsors

Broad Relevance:

Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic the pace of progress in reducing new HIV infections, increasing access to treatment and ending AIDS-related deaths was slowing. Prior to the pandemic, the world was already on track to miss the 2020 targets, including the global HIV prevention targets with nearly 3.5 million new infections since 2015. Since the start of the pandemic, in early 2020, the UNAIDS Joint Programme has been closely tracking the effect of COVID-19 on HIV services and working with partners, including affected communities, on mitigation approaches to minimize the pandemic's impact. At the same time lessons from HIV and HIV resources have been applied to the COVID-19 response and opportunities to advance important HIV policies, for example multi-month dispensing of HIV medicines, have been accelerated in many countries as part of the response to ensure safe continuity of essential services and measure to increase social protection have been extended. People living with HIV, women and girls, and key populations including men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, people in prisons and other closed settings, sex workers and transgender people have reported a range of challenges this year. These have included ensuring the continuity of safe spaces and services, including from discrimination and violence, and ensuring that staff including outreach workers, providers and beneficiaries are COVID-19 secure. Reports of human rights violations and gender-based violence and overall gender inequalities have also increased significantly under COVID-19 restrictions. Aggravated impact of slowing economies increased care burden for women, including in the context of HIV, and deepened gender poverty gaps. So much has taken place in such a short space of time that December 2021 offers a timely moment to take stock, in full alignment with the new UNAIDS strategy, and prioritize how to move forward in 2022 including through suggestions for course correction if necessary and re-envisioning the role of NACs in HIV prevention beyond 2021.

Responsiveness:

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all actors in the global AIDS response and its social and economic impact will continue for many years to come. People living with HIV, key populations, women and girls, particularly adolescent girls and young women, people on the move and other communities most impacted by HIV are also often most affected by COVID-19. Like HIV, the COVID-19 pandemic impacts on all sectors and sections of society. Governments and funding partners have been making reprogramming decisions in real-time since the start of the pandemic and traditional ways of working, meeting and communicating have been disrupted – presenting challenges and opportunities to multi-sectoral collaboration. Information and data on the impact of the pandemic has, understandably evolved at different speeds requiring levels of flexibility and responsiveness across all actors. The science around COVID-19 and its impact in relation to co-infections and co-morbidities also continues to evolve as does the science around diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines. New collaborative platforms at global, regional and national levels have emerged and finding space and time for critical HIV-specific discussions has become increasingly challenging. It is critical that the UNAIDS Joint Programme, its partners and

Governments relevant programmes and agencies continue to monitor, address and respond to the pandemic throughout 2021 – generating more data and information that will require a deliberate moment for evaluation and reflection. Monitoring data and information is only worth the investment if there is sufficient evaluation built into the process. Furthermore, even prior to COVID-19 (but now certainly even more relevant), 2020 provides an opportunity to take stock of where we are at, how COVID has impacted our progress and challenges, and how we can move forward to build a better response. In particular, regarding HIV prevention, this thematic segment provides an opportunity to take stock of progress towards HIV prevention and reflect on the future role of NACs as stewards of national HIV prevention programs. A PCB Thematic session in December 2021 offers an opportunity for collective multi-sectoral sense making of the impact of COVID-19 on the entirety of our HIV responses.

Focus:

It is proposed that the day follow similar previous successful formats and be informed by a comprehensive background document that is developed early in 2021 with the oversight of the PCB Thematic Working Group. Examples and learning from across the Joint Programme and countries from different regions will be shared. Sessions could explore: context, data and information; the role communities play in integrated responses to COVID-19 and HIV and preparedness, and evaluation of the resources and funding available to communities as part of sustainable capacity building of communities; a panel exploring the role of the Joint Programme working with governments and partners: and coordination, monitoring and accountability of the HIV COVID-19 response. It is proposed that the panel draws lessons on coordination and re-emphasizes the need for multisectoral approaches to diseases management. A particular segment to focus on the future of role of NACs, drawing on the Global HIV Prevention Coalition external review and the lessons from the engagement of NACs during COVID 19, recognizing the need for multisectoral and integrated responses to accelerate HIV prevention while responding to COVID 19.

Scope for action:

The session would build on the new UNAIDS Strategy to ensure that key elements of the strategy, including HIV prevention, are highlighted for prioritization and/or guided by ideas for ensuring effective action towards 2025 and 2030 goals and targets. It would deliberately seek to review how the policy, systems and service elements of HIV and COVID-19 responses, Multisectoral approaches are serving current needs well while also including a view towards sustainability and including whether we have learned and are building in preparedness.

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Proposed theme for the 49th Programme Coordinating Board meeting (December 2021)

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 2025 and 2030 goals?

Theme Proposed by: United States of America and the World Bank, supported by Algeria, Botswana, Madagascar, Namibia, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Australia, Belarus, and China.

Broad Relevance:

While the AIDS epidemic is far from over, pressure is increasing the pressure to accomplish more with less. At the same time, covering the last mile to end AIDS requires us to think differently. Doing more of the same will not be enough. Success will also require new approaches and innovation, including better collection, analysis and use of data – as expressly called for in the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS which includes a commitment to "Accelerate efforts to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data."

UNAIDS' establishing the 90-90-90 goals to reach epidemic control has been catalytic in moving the epidemic response forward. The UNAIDS Joint Programme revised operating model has led to an increased focus on country-level progress towards meeting the 2025 and 2030 goals with country capacity assessments and country case studies.

Better targeted planning and programming are essential to meet these goals. Country program data, combined with better leveraging of innovation and technology, form a critical tool to understanding progress or lack thereof whether by region or by population and identifying tailored, efficient and effective solutions to meet the remaining needs. Understanding within country regional and population level differences in results and progress is an essential step in changing health service delivery models that will best meet the needs of people living with HIV and most vulnerable to infection. Additionally, program data can be used as inputs into modelling processes to allow for predictions on the impact of program interventions on the global HIV epidemic. The goal of a thematic day focused on data and results will be to discuss global, regional and country results with the aim to advance an improved understanding of progress made to the 2025 and 2030 goals and how to better leverage technological innovation to make use of that data.

Responsiveness:

All countries want to see progress on addressing the needs of people affected by the HIV epidemic. The complexity of the HIV epidemic, whether by region or country or population, has created significant barriers to progress in both prevention and treatment. By looking at results at various analytic angles and ways to better leverage innovation and technology, strategies to remove barriers – structural and technical – will become evident. These strategies to improve HIV health service delivery are best informed by the experiences and perspectives of a range of stakeholders.

The PCB offers an opportunity to engage these stakeholders through Members States, the NGO delegation, and PCB Observers.

Data derived from both surveillance studies and program results can be presented and used to create an inclusive discussion on what must be maintained, what must change, and what must be scaled up to reach the 2030 goals. PEPFAR has invested in supporting countries to conduct Population-Based HIV Impact Assessment (PHIA) studies that measure the reach

and impact of HIV programs. The results measure national and regional progress toward the UNAIDS 90-90-90 goals and guide policy and funding priorities.

Innovation and technology are under-used, under-prioritized and rarely taken to scale. Policymakers and service providers often lack the guidance and information they need to determine which options are easy-to-use, effective and efficient. While a wide range of tools is available to improve health outcomes, they are not yet fully used. We propose some concrete examples to better demonstrate how technology and innovation can help deliver on our HIV targets.

Focus:

The theme can be considered in one day, with one half of the day dedicated to what the data reveal on the state of the epidemic and the other half on change recommendations based on specific gaps and blockages and the technology and other forms of innovative solutions best suited to progress on implementation that have been revealed and the action that is needed to address the gaps.

Scope for action:

Program data is derived from country-level efforts and interventions. The review of program data and analysis of what it means for the 2025 and 2030 goals is naturally oriented towards action not theory. The outcome of the thematic day would focus on highlighting positive progress in prevention and treatment results and how this progress can be scaled or expanded in countries, regions, or populations that are not seeing as strong of results. It would also work to help all concerned better leverage data, technology and innovation to further progress to the 2020 and 2030 goals.

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