

10 December 2021

**Virtual 49th Session of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board
Geneva, Switzerland**

7 – 10 December 2021

Decisions

The UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board,

Recalling that all aspects of UNAIDS work are directed by the following guiding principles:

- Aligned to national stakeholders' priorities;
- Based on the meaningful and measurable involvement of civil society, especially people living with HIV and populations most at risk of HIV infection;
- Based on human rights and gender equality;
- Based on the best available scientific evidence and technical knowledge;
- Promoting comprehensive responses to AIDS that integrate prevention, treatment, care and support; and
- Based on the principle of non-discrimination;

Intersessional Decisions:

Recalling that, to cope with the specific circumstances due to the COVID-19 health crisis, it has decided through the intersessional procedure (see decisions in UNAIDS/PCB/(EM)/3.2):

- *Agrees* that the March Special Session of the Programme Coordinating Board will be held virtually on 24 – 25 March 2021;
- *Agrees* that the 48th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board will include an additional day to the dates agreed in decision point 11.3 of the 43rd PCB meeting and will be held virtually on 29 June – 2 July 2021;
- *Agrees* that the PCB Bureau will determine if the 49th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board will be virtual or in-person; and that if the meeting will be held virtually, it will exceptionally include an additional day and be held on 7 – 10 December 2021; and
- *Agrees* on the modalities and rules of procedure set out in the paper, Modalities and procedures for virtual 2021 UNAIDS PCB meetings (UNAIDS/PCB(EM)/3.2), for the virtual 2021 PCB meetings and their preparations.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. *Adopts* the agenda;

Agenda item 1.2: Consideration of the report of the Special Session of the PCB

2. *Adopts* the report of the Special Session of the Programme Coordinating Board held virtually on 6 October 2021;

Agenda item 1.3: Report of the Executive Director

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director;

Agenda item 1.4. Report by the NGO Representative¹

- 4.1 *Recalls* the 45th Programme Coordinating Board decisions 4.1 to 4.4 under agenda item 1.4: Report by the NGO Representative on the essential need to address economic, social, structural, and regulatory barriers that prevent access to comprehensive HIV services and health-related programs;
- 4.2 *Recalls* the commitments from the 2021 United Nations General Assembly Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS to ensure that by 2025 community-led organisations deliver: 30% of testing and treatment services; 80% of HIV prevention services; and 60% of programmes to support the achievement of societal enablers and to expand investment in societal enablers –including protection of human rights, reduction of stigma and discrimination and law reform;
- 4.3 *Takes note* of the Report by the NGO Representative;
- 4.4 In order to reach the 10-10-10 societal enabler targets by 2025, *calls on* Member States to:
 - a) Increase investments in and scale up programmes related to societal enablers that have been proven to work, including programmes to reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination and to increase access to justice; to train health care workers and law enforcement officials on HIV and access to services for key populations² with a view to ensuring no one is left behind; and to eliminate gender-based violence and empower women and girls in all their diversity;
 - b) Partner with civil society and community-led organizations to deliver programmes on societal enablers, and gradually increase the proportion of such programmes delivered by communities to reach the target of 60 percent of programmes to support the achievement of societal enablers are delivered by communities;
 - c) In accordance with national legislation, ensure unimpeded access to education, employment and healthcare for people living with HIV, key populations and other vulnerable groups such as women and girls, adolescents and young people, and migrants who are disproportionately affected by HIV;
- 4.5 In order to reach the 10/10/10 targets by 2025, *calls on* the Joint Programme to:

¹ The Russian Federation disassociates itself from some parts of the decision points as the Russian Federation did not join the 2021 UN General Assembly Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.

² As defined in the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026.

- a) Harmonize existing Joint Programme and Cosponsor policies and guidance to support scaling up of programmes on societal enablers;
- b) Advocate for laws and policies that protect the rights and health of all;
- c) Support countries to ensure that indicators for societal enablers are integrated into national monitoring and evaluation systems and routinely monitored, including through community-led monitoring;
- d) Upon request, support countries and communities to reach the target, by 2025, of 60 percent of programmes to support the achievement of societal enablers are delivered by communities;

Agenda item 3: HIV in prisons and other closed settings

5.1 *Takes note* of the report;

5.2 *Calls* on member states to:

- a) introduce and scale up evidence-based, gender responsive, gender sensitive and people-centred programmatic actions, to ensure equal access for people in prisons and other closed settings to comprehensive and integrated HIV, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, and viral hepatitis prevention, diagnosis and treatment services, as well as to related health services and psychosocial support, and including by encouraging, where applicable, reducing overcrowding in these settings;
- b) reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination in prisons and other closed settings, and create social, legal and policy environments that contribute towards improving HIV and related health outcomes for people in prisons and other closed settings;
- c) increase resources for HIV services in prisons and other closed settings, including the role of community support, and linkages to services during stay, all stages of transfer, and after release;

5.3 *Requests* the Joint Programme to:

- a) Where appropriate, accelerate technical support to Member States to introduce and scale up evidence-based, gender responsive, gender sensitive and people-centred HIV-related programmes in prisons and other closed settings to reach the 2025 targets;
- b) support member states to generate, collect, analyse and strategically use disaggregated data on HIV and related health conditions in prisons and other closed settings, respecting confidentiality of medical information;
- c) support partnerships between national authorities and civil society to improve access and uptake of HIV services by people in prisons and closed settings, including after release, and strengthen the involvement of people in prisons and formerly incarcerated people in national HIV responses;
- d) report to the Programme Coordinating Board on progress towards 2025 targets as related to people in prisons and other closed settings;

Agenda item 4: 2022-2026 UBRAF Outputs and Indicators and revised 2022-2023 Workplan³

- 6.1 *Takes note* of the annex of the 2022-2026 Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework outputs and indicators (UNAIDS/PCB (49)/21.26) and, with consideration of PCB comments, looks forward to receiving the complete indicator matrix at the 50th PCB meeting in June 2022;
- 6.2 Recalling decisions 3.3 & 3.4 of the Programme Coordinating Board's Special Session, *approves* the revised 2022- 2023 Workplan (UNAIDS/PCB (49)/21.27) against the core budget base of US\$187 million up to the threshold of US\$210 million annually;
- 6.3 *Requests* the Joint Programme to finalise the indicators, milestones, targets, and data sources for the 2022-2023 Workplan aligned with the core budget base of US\$187 million up to the threshold of US\$210 million annually, for consideration by the Programme Coordinating Board in June 2022, noting that the Cosponsors and Secretariat will be accountable for delivering against the respective indicators, milestones, and targets within corresponding results areas;
- 6.4 *Requests* the UNAIDS Joint Programme to report annually to the Programme Coordinating Board on the implementation of the 2022-2026 Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework through the related performance and financial reporting agenda items from June 2023;

Agenda item 5: Evaluation

- 7.1 *Recalls* decision 11 of the 45th session of the Programme Coordinating Board approving UNAIDS 2020–2021 Evaluation Plan as well as decisions 9.1 and 9.2 of the 47th session of the Programme Coordinating Board welcoming progress in the implementation of the Evaluation Policy and Evaluation Plan, recognizing the important work done by the Expert Advisory Committee in support of the UNAIDS Evaluation Office, and requesting the next annual report to be presented to the Programme Coordinating Board in 2021;
- 7.2 *Takes note* of the summary of the main findings of the Evaluations conducted in 2021 and the management response to the annual report on evaluation and the evaluation plan 2022-2023;
- 7.3 *Welcomes* continued progress in the implementation of the Evaluation Policy and the 2020–2021 Evaluation Plan and, taking into account the financial situation of the organization, *reiterates* decision 9.3 of the 47th session of the Programme Coordinating Board requesting the Executive Director to ensure that the evaluation function remains adequately resourced and staffed in accordance with the Evaluation

³ The Russian Federation disassociates itself from certain outputs, indicators and elements of the 2022-2023 workplan aligned with its disassociation from parts of the UBRAF 2022-2026 and the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026.

Policy approved by Programme Coordinating Board in decision 6.6 of its 44th session;

- 7.4 *Agrees* to the composition of the Expert Advisory Committee on evaluation proposed by the PCB Bureau for the period 2022-2023 as mentioned in annex 1 of the 2021 annual report (UNAIDS/PCB (49)/21.28), *approves* the 2022–2023 Evaluation Plan (UNAIDS/PCB (49)/21.28) endorsed by the Expert Advisory Committee and *looks forward* to the next annual report on evaluation to be presented to the Programme Coordinating Board in 2022;

Agenda item 6: Follow-up to the thematic segment from the 48th Programme Coordinating Board meeting

- 8.1 *Takes note* of the background note (UNAIDS/PCB (48)/21.20.rev1) and the summary report (UNAIDS/PCB (49)/21.29) of the Programme Coordinating Board thematic segment on “COVID-19 and HIV—sustaining HIV gains and building back better and fairer HIV responses”;
- 8.2 Building on lessons from both the HIV response and the COVID-19 pandemic, *calls* on Member States to:
- a) Sustain practices introduced and/or accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic for HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care services, including multimonth dispensing, leveraging virtual platforms, and scale-up of differentiated, people-centred and community- and home-based HIV services;
 - b) Promote equitable access to effective, quality, affordable diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines, and vaccines for the HIV and COVID-19 responses;
 - c) Invest adequately and prioritize flexible funding arrangements to ensure HIV service continuity in the context of major public health emergencies;
 - d) Continue to actively involve communities and civil society in the response to HIV, including in the context of COVID-19 and future pandemics, and provide sufficient investments in community-based and community-led programmes that address these;
 - e) Build forward better, in an inclusive and fair manner, by, *inter alia*, providing stigma and discrimination-free, equitable and universal access to HIV, health and social protection services, including for key populations and other populations noted to have been particularly negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic;
- 8.3 *Calls* on the UNAIDS Joint Programme to:
- a) Continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the global HIV response and on people living with and affected by HIV;
 - b) Support countries and communities upon their request to build on practices and innovations introduced and/or accelerated during COVID-19, including through timely policy guidance, technical assistance and platforms to counter stigma and discrimination against people living with and affected by HIV;
 - c) Apply the lessons from the HIV response to promote equitable access to effective, quality, affordable diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines, and

- vaccines for COVID-19 and any other future pandemics that would disrupt the HIV response;
- d) Contribute to the application of the lessons learned from the HIV pandemic and its response to improve pandemic preparedness and to prevent, detect and respond to future global public health threats;
 - e) Apply and build on lessons learned from the response to COVID-19 to protect the HIV gains and achieve the Global AIDS Strategy 2025 targets;
 - f) Advocate for increased domestic and global investments in the responses to HIV and COVID-19;

Agenda item 7: Report of the progress on actions to reduce stigma and discrimination in all its forms

9.1 *Takes note* of the report;

9.2 *Calls* on member states to:

- a) utilize available tools and indicators to set baselines and to monitor progress in reducing HIV-related stigma and discrimination in all its forms;
- b) accelerate and adequately resource evidence-based programmatic action to reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination, in collaboration with civil society and community networks in health-care, employment, education, emergency and humanitarian, justice and community settings, and increase access to justice for people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV in order to reach the 2025 targets;
- c) review and reform restrictive policy frameworks, including discriminatory laws and practices that undermine access to HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care services;
- d) consider joining the Global Partnership for Action to Eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination, and prioritizing implementation of commitments made to tackle stigma and discrimination in health-care, employment, education, emergency and humanitarian, justice and community settings;

9.3 *Requests* the Joint Programme to

- a) support countries to improve data systems and to collect and analyse data on HIV-related stigma and discrimination in health-care, employment, education, emergency and humanitarian, justice and community settings, and to strategically use such data to increase access to, and use of, HIV services and care and to protect human rights in the context of HIV;
- b) further continue to support community leadership and build partnerships between governments, public institutions, private sector, civil society, networks of people living with HIV and of key populations and other relevant partners to reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination;
- c) continue to support the Global Partnership for Action, as specified in decision 8.2b of the 45th Meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board, and increase funding and intensify interventions proven to reduce or end HIV related stigma and discrimination;
- d) continue to update guidance for the removal of HIV-related stigma and discrimination and support their implementation at country level, and to advocate for domestic and international funding for stigma and discrimination programming, including for the creation of an enabling legal environment; and

- e) report to the Programme Coordinating Board on progress towards reaching the 2025 targets related to HIV-related stigma and discrimination;

Agenda item 8: Next PCB meetings

- 10.1 *Agrees* that the themes for the 50th and 51st Programme Coordinating Board thematic segments will be:
 - a) *HIV and men, in all their diversity, how can we get our responses back on track?* (June 2022)
 - b) *Positive Learning: harnessing the power of education to end HIV-related stigma and discrimination and empower young people living with HIV;* (December 2022)
- 10.2 *Requests* 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 52nd and 53rd Programme Coordinating Board meetings;
- 10.3 *Agrees* on the dates for the 54th (25-27 June 2024) and the 55th (10-12 December 2024) meetings of the Programme Coordinating Board; and

Agenda item 9: Election of Officers⁴

- 11. *Elects* Thailand as the Chair, Germany as Vice-Chair and Kenya as the Rapporteur for the period 1 January to 31 December 2022 and *approves* the composition of the PCB NGO Delegation.

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⁴ The Russian Federation disassociates itself partially from the decision that approves the composition of the PCB NGO Delegation.