

UNAIDS PCB Bureau meeting

DATE: Monday 8 June 2020

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

VENUE: TEAMS meeting (Virtual)

MEETING DRAFT AGENDA

1. **Task Team on Community-led AIDS Responses:** The Bureau will meet with the Africa Group to discuss the task team on Community-led AIDS Responses
2. **AOB**

Participants

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

Africa Group: Mr Théophile Bosse (Cameroon); Mr Jules Cesar Botokou (Congo); Ms Peace Mutuma (Kenya); Mr Abraham Kamara (Liberia); and Ms Mouna Mcharek (Tunisia);

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

Excused: Dr. Sadre Alam (India: representing the Rapporteur)

Summary

The PCB Chair opened the meeting by thanking participants for their time. The Chair reviewed the purpose of the meeting, which was to discuss the Task Team on Community-led AIDS responses at the request of PCB Member States on behalf of the Africa Group of Member States in Geneva.

Participants of the meeting had received the following background documents:

- The decision points from the 43rd (2018) and 45th PCB meetings (2019), which called for the establishment of the Task Team;
- The terms of reference for the Task Team;

- The progress report on the establishment of the Task Team, which has been posted on the PCB website.
- And finally, the two UNAIDS publications that used the preliminary work of the expert consultations held last year to develop a draft definition of community-led AIDS responses.

With regard of the establishment of the Task Team on community led AIDS response, the Chair provided a brief overview of the nomination process that was put into place following the 45th PCB meeting and the development of the Terms of Reference on community led AIDS response . Following approval of the agenda item by the PCB Bureau on 24 January 2020, the Secretariat took action by drafting the terms of reference further to which an initial call for nominations had been issued on 23 April 2020 with a final deadline of 1 May 2020. The Chair noted that there had been a very robust response in terms of participation with 92 nominations. In order to adhere to the Terms of Reference and to ensure the Task Team maintains a reasonable and workable size, discussions were ongoing with the Secretariat to establish the Task Team. The Chair confirmed that the Bureau was kept informed on a regular basis on all steps taken by the Secretariat to prepare for this agenda item as well as all other agenda items confirmed by the PCB Bureau and the Executive Director.

The Chair then gave the floor to the Africa Group to discuss their concerns. Members of the Africa Group thanked the Bureau for their time and reiterated their full support to the critical role of communities without which it would be impossible to reach the end of AIDS by 2030. Members further reinforced their commitment to the targets laid out in the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS as well as their support for the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Members of the Africa Group expressed concern that the modalities used in establishing this task team were not in alignment with the decision points from the 43rd and 45th meetings of the Programme Coordinating Board:

45th meeting:

- 6.2 Recalling decision point 10.4b of the 43rd Programme Coordinating Board meeting, requests the Joint Programme to convene a geographically balanced multistakeholder task team open to all Member States, and to report back on the process to the Programme Coordinating Board in its 46th Session;

43rd PCB meeting:

10.4 Requests the Joint Programme to:

- b. Convene a task team with diverse donors, implementing countries, and civil society representatives, including representatives of people living with HIV, women and adolescent girls and young women, youth and key populations, to standardize the use of definitions, including, “community-led AIDS response” and “social enablers” and to recommend good practices and improved modalities to ensure access to funding for community-based organizations and constituency based networks;

Members of the Africa Group requested greater transparency and accuracy in implementing the decisions regarding the establishment of the Task Team and called on the PCB Bureau to exercise its oversight role as necessary.

The Chair thanked the Africa Group for raising their concerns and reiterated the commitment of the PCB Bureau to ensuring that previous PCB decisions are fully and accurately implemented. The PCB Bureau has closely monitored the establishment of the Task Team, including the PCB Chair meeting with the Secretariat throughout the process of developing the Terms of Reference for the task team. The Chair noted that the Secretariat has been very open and responsive. The Chair noted that the oversight role of the Bureau was to ensure that the Task Team:

- included an open call for participation;
- had Member State engagement; and
- was geographically balanced.

The Chair noted that the open call for participation was issued in April and received significant interest. Member States would form part of the Task Team. The Secretariat was in the process of establishing the task team with geographic balance, but noted the difficulty of doing so in light of varied geographic interest from the open call. The PCB Bureau would work closely with the Secretariat to ensure that the establishment of the Task Team continues to fulfill the requirements of the PCB decision points in a legally viable manner.

Further to the discussion on the establishment of the Task Team, the Chair reviewed the two documents currently posted on the website that included the definitions developed through last year's expert consultations in June-July 2019:

- [Power to the People Report](#) (published for 2019 World AIDS Day)
- [What is a Community-led Organization?](#)

The Chair noted that the definition had also been used in a Global Fund publication, which had been removed from the Global Fund website in February 2020 until the completed work of the Task Team has been considered.

In response to the concerns raised by the PCB Africa Group members, the Chair, in consultation with UNAIDS Executive Director, proposed the following approach as a way forward in the context of the preparation of this agenda item- full title as in agenda link to agenda

On UNAIDS publications

- [“What is a Community-led Organization?”](#) would be removed and reposted following the consideration of the outcome of the work of the Task Team;
- [“Power to the People”](#) would be edited to include a disclaimer that these definitions are preliminary work that would be updated following the consideration of the outcome of the work of the Task Team;
- Relevant content in the community-led organization publication would be used as input for discussion in the context of the work of the Task Team once established.

Bureau members expressed their support for the Chair's proposal and reiterated the importance of sharing the preliminary work done during the expert consultation in 2019 with the Task Team for their consideration. Members of the Africa Group supported the approach and thanked the Bureau members for their time. The Secretariat will discuss the outlined approach with leadership and will report back to the Chair with the exact language of the disclaimer.

On the composition of the Task Team

In order to adhere to the Terms of Reference and to ensure the Task Team maintains a reasonable and workable size, discussions are ongoing with the Secretariat to establish the Task

Team. The Chair noted that at this point in time, given the significant geographic imbalance of the names received through the open call for Task Term membership, that it would not be possible to constitute a Task Team that was geographically balanced. Given this situation, the Secretariat will work on options and revert to the Bureau for guidance and direction. The PCB will be kept informed on a regular basis.

The Chair thanked participants and asked that swift actions are taken by the Secretariat on all of the above ahead of the pre-meeting on this agenda item scheduled for Thursday, 11 June 2020.

The Chair closed the meeting.

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