

**UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD WORKING GROUP
THEMATIC SEGMENT FOR THE 44th PCB MEETING**

Delivering on SDG3: Strengthening and integrating comprehensive HIV responses into sustainable health systems for Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

At its 43rd meeting, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) agreed that the theme for its 44th meeting will be “*Delivering on SDG3: Strengthening and integrating comprehensive HIV responses into sustainable health systems for Universal Health Coverage (UHC)*”. The Thematic Segment will take place on 27 June 2019.

The thematic segment provides an opportunity to:

- a. explore why UHC is now at the forefront of global health and how UHC can benefit from the lessons learnt from the HIV response;
- b. review the importance of integrating comprehensive HIV responses into UHC;
- c. identify priority approaches and areas of action for the Joint Programme, Member States, and civil society to ensure that roll-out of UHC achieves its full potential – for the HIV response and for human health and well-being.

MEETING SUMMARY: FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

DATE: Friday 8 March 2019

PARTICIPANTS

(See attached list)

MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Presentation of the draft outline of the Background Note for the thematic segment
3. Discussion on the draft outline of the Background Note
4. Way forward
5. Any other business

SUMMARY

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Mr Morten Ussing, Chief, Governance and Multilateral Affairs, UNAIDS Secretariat, welcomed the PCB Working Group to its first meeting for the preparation of the Thematic Segment of the 44th PCB on *Delivering on SDG3: Strengthening and integrating comprehensive HIV responses into sustainable health systems for Universal Health Coverage (UHC)*.

Mr. Ussing explained that the thematic segment working groups are convened on a regular basis to ensure that PCB constituencies have a chance to provide input into the focus and approach taken to the theme and to comment on the draft background note and agenda of the thematic day, and suggest possible speakers.

He specified that membership of the thematic segment working group is limited to PCB members.

Mr. Ussing also recalled that the themes for the PCB meetings are decided upon by the PCB at its December meetings. He explained that the process to propose themes for the PCB meetings is led by the PCB Bureau. A call goes out to PCB members soon after the June PCB meeting to suggest themes for the PCB meetings of the following year. The Bureau reviews the proposals and may request constituencies to work together to combine similar proposals. Mr. Ussing mentioned that this was also the case for the present theme which is based on combined proposals received from various constituencies.

Mr. Ussing explained that the working group usually has three meetings. The first meeting gives an opportunity for the working group members to provide input into the draft outline of the thematic segment background note. The second meeting is an opportunity to provide comments on the first full draft of the background note as well as the first draft of the agenda and to suggest possible speakers. The third meeting will review the second draft of the background note and discuss the format of the thematic day and the selection of speakers. Mr. Ussing encouraged working group members to provide several suggestions for possible speakers to allow the Secretariat to achieve gender and regional balance of the final list of speakers.

Mr. Ussing also mentioned that the UN High Level Meeting (HLM) on UHC would take place in September and that although there will not be any PCB decision points available from the thematic segment before the HLM, the PCB Chair may send the main conclusions of the thematic segment to the co-facilitators of the HLM, as was done in June 2018 following the thematic on HIV and Tuberculosis so that the discussions at the thematic segment could feed into the preparation of the HLM on TB which took place in September 2018.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE BACKGROUND NOTE ON DELIVERING ON SDG3: STRENGTHENING AND INTEGRATING COMPREHENSIVE HIV RESPONSES INTO SUSTAINABLE HEALTH SYSTEMS FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC)

Mr. Gang Sun, Senior Adviser, Fast Track Implementation Department, UNAIDS Secretariat, introduced the draft annotated outline of the Background Note. He explained that the draft outline includes some good examples of current efforts to integrate comprehensive HIV responses into UHC but that it is hoped that the working group would suggest additional examples to highlight.

Mr. Sun explained that the outline starts with a discussion on the importance of UHC and what UHC means for the HIV response. The outline then goes on to discuss how UHC can support ending AIDS and also outlines some of the potential pitfalls to avoid when rolling out UHC to ensure that HIV services are not jeopardised. Mr. Sun said that the outline also discusses the lessons learnt from the HIV response that can be useful for the UHC rollout, as well as the ways in which the UNAIDS Joint Programme, member states and civil society can engage with the UHC movement.

3. DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE BACKGROUND NOTE ON DELIVERING ON SDG3: STRENGTHENING AND INTEGRATING COMPREHENSIVE HIV RESPONSES INTO SUSTAINABLE HEALTH SYSTEMS FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC)

The PCB working group welcomed the draft outline of the Background Note. Specific comments included the following:

Member States

- Commended the good first draft of the outline for the background note.
- Suggested adding an objective about feeding the thematic segment discussions into the preparations for the High Level Meeting on UHC as was done with the thematic segment on HIV and Tuberculosis.
- Emphasised the need to add a discussion on how the multisectoral aspects of HIV response can be integrated into UHC.
- Mentioned that there was no common definition of UHC.
- Emphasised the importance of discussing the rights-based approach and zero discrimination as well as of community engagement in the HIV response and in the context of UHC.
- Suggested further emphasising the importance of HIV prevention, including harm reduction for people who inject drugs, in the background note.
- Emphasised the need to ensure that resources are targeted so as to reach those most affected.
- Suggested mentioning that financing should go beyond public sector programmes and also include civil society and faith-based organizations as service providers.
- Suggested adding a discussion on sustainability of HIV responses.
- Suggested that the background note further explores innovative financing options.
- Suggested adding a reference to STIs in the section exploring integration of services.
- Emphasised the importance of having a balanced approach in covering the different issues.

PCB NGO Delegation

- Suggested that one of the objectives for the thematic segment discussions should be identifying mechanisms for integration of services, including SRHR, especially for key populations.
- Suggested including a reference to the 10-10-10, putting emphasis on those left behind.
- Suggesting mentioning mental health and quality of life issues in the context of service integration.
- Suggested including a discussion on structural barriers, including criminalization and its impact on access to services.
- Highlighted importance of civil society engagement to transpire throughout the document.
- Suggested including a discussion on how decisions based on health economics considerations may impact on services for key populations.
- Mentioned that the NGO delegation would consult more widely with civil society and send further written comments.

Cosponsors

- Suggested emphasising the importance of multisectoral responses and social determinants of health for the sustainability of UHC.
- Emphasised that UHC was about ensuring affordability and about avoiding catastrophic financial hardship in seeking health services.
- Suggested adding a reference to mental health, cancer, STIs and other comorbidities.
- Mentioned that UHC can learn from the HIV response and the HIV response can also learn from UHC.
- Emphasised that high-level political commitment is required to achieve UHC and that different financial solutions may be used in different countries to deliver UHC.
- Suggested adding a reference to ICDP +25.

4. WAY FORWARD

Mr. Morten Ussing mentioned to the working group participants that they had until Friday 15 March to send any written comments on the draft outline of the background note.

He also informed the working group that, as usual, a call for submissions of best practice case studies would be send out to all PCB members and permanent missions soon. He explained that the purpose of collecting case studies was to include practical examples into the background note and to inform the thematic discussions. Case studies received would be compiled into a conference room paper which is published on the PCB website.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

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