



UNAIDS PCB BUREAU MEETING

DATE: Friday, 15 January 2021

TIME: 13:00-16:30

VENUE: Teams meeting (Virtual)

PARTICIPANTS

PCB Bureau: Dr Kalumbi Shangula, Ms Anne-Marie Nitschke, Ms Julieth Karirao and Ms Xungileni Chitundu (Namibia: representing the Chair); Dr. Walaiporn Patcharanarumol, Dr Monthinee Vasantiuppapokakorn, and Mr. Natee Vichitsorasatra (Thailand: representing the Vice-Chair); Ms Julia Martin (United States of America: representing the Rapporteur); Mr Alexander Pastoors and Ms Jules Kim (representing the PCB NGO Delegation); and Mr Andy Seale and Mr. Hywel Jones (WHO: representing UNAIDS Cosponsors).

UNAIDS Secretariat: Mr Tim Martineau, Deputy Executive Director of Management and Governance a.i., Mr Morten Ussing, Director Governance and Multilateral Affairs, Ms Samia Lounnas, Senior Governance Advisor, Governance and Multilateral Affairs, and Ms Maggie Lemons, Governance Officer, Governance and Multilateral Affairs

MEETING AGENDA

1. PCB Briefing on the Strategy
2. Preparations for the March 2021 PCB Special Session including Modalities for the PCB meetings in 2021
3. PCB Report to ECOSOC
4. Preparations for the June 2021 PCB Meeting
5. Establishment of the Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee
6. AOB

SUMMARY

Opening remarks from the PCB Bureau Chair

Ms. Xungileni Chitundu representing Namibia as the PCB Bureau Chair welcomed the Bureau members to their first meeting. The Chair noted that 2021 will be a crucial year for the AIDS response with the adoption of the next Global AIDS Strategy and a UNGA High-Level meeting on HIV and AIDS as well as an important moment for the PCB itself with the establishment of the oversight roles recently agreed upon at the 47th PCB meeting and the first PCB report to ECOSOC. The Chair emphasized the importance of an engaged Bureau to support this work.

The Chair welcomed the Members of the Bureau for 2021: Namibia as Chair, Thailand as Vice-Chair, the United States of America as Rapporteur, the WHO as the Chair of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations and the representatives of the NGO Delegation, and congratulated the incoming members on their election to the Bureau.

- 1. PCB Briefing on the Strategy** *The Bureau will receive an update and provide guidance on the PCB Briefing on the Strategy as requested in decision point 10.3 from the 47th PCB meeting: “Requests the Bureau to organize a PCB Briefing by the end of January 2021 for presentation of the revised framework, including an executive summary for the UNAIDS Strategy, identifying the prioritized actions needed to end AIDS by 2030 and taking into account the comments of the 47th Programme Coordinating Board;”*

As outlined in decision 10.3 from the 47th PCB meeting, the PCB Bureau will organize a PCB Briefing on the Global AIDS Strategy. In advance of the meeting, Bureau members received a summary of the statements made at the 47th PCB meeting on the Strategy. These comments are being taken into account by the Joint Programme in the development of a revised framework for the Strategy, which will be presented at the upcoming Briefing.

The revised framework will be presented to the PCB Bureau for their consideration and guidance before it is circulated to PCB members in advance of the briefing. Following the briefing, the Strategy will be finalized and provided to the PCB in advance of the March Special Session of the PCB in accordance with the [Modus Operandi](#).

The briefing is proposed to be held in early February, which legal counsel indicated complies with the decision point.

Members of the Bureau noted the summary of remarks from the 47th PCB meeting provided a useful mapping for the Joint Programme to take forward in the further development of the Global AIDS Strategy. As members of the drafting groups, the

cosponsors reiterated their support for ensuring that these statements are considered in the development of the revised framework. Bureau members stressed that the briefing will be an important moment to relay new information, introduce the final framework, and build confidence among stakeholders in the direction of the Strategy. Bureau members indicated that the briefing should be open to both PCB members and observers to allow for full consultation. Bureau members noted the importance of having background documents for the briefing that are short, prioritized, and illustrate key messages to support the review and preparation of stakeholders in advance of the briefing. While a zero draft would be welcomed, it should not replace the deliverables requested in the PCB decision point: a revised framework with an executive summary.

A draft agenda for the briefing will be circulated for consideration and approval by the PCB Bureau. The Secretariat will share the revised framework and zero draft of the Strategy with the PCB Bureau for guidance on finalization before the wider PCB receives it in advance of the briefing. Invitations to the briefing will be sent out shortly.

2. Preparations for the March 2021 PCB Special Session including Modalities for the PCB meetings in 2021

The Bureau will receive an update and provide guidance on the preparations for the upcoming March 2021 Special Session of the PCB.

The PCB called for a March 2021 PCB Special Session at its 47th meeting. The PCB Bureau received two background documents to support their discussion in advance of the meeting:

- The Follow-up PCB Decision chart, which outlines possible agenda items along with their accompanying decision point. (Annex 1)
- A draft modalities and procedures paper for all virtual 2021 PCB meetings.

The PCB Chair recalled the decision points from the 47th PCB meeting and the 2019 ECOSOC resolution as a basis for the agenda for the Special Session.

- **[UNAIDS Strategy beyond 2021]**
Requests the Executive Director to present the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 at a special session of the PCB no later than March 2021 for consideration and adoption;
- **[Evaluation - Management Response]**
Takes note of the current progress of the UNAIDS management response to the Independent Evaluation of the UN System Response to AIDS 2016-2019 and requests the Joint Programme to show how it intends to support countries in implementing the Global AIDS strategy 2021-2026 with greater specificity of action, contributions and accountability, through its new results and accountability framework, at the March 2021 Special Session;
- **[ECOSOC Resolution 2019]**
Requests the Programme Coordinating Board to discuss governance issues of the Joint Programme, as well as how the Joint Programme could be sustainably core funded, in accordance with all relevant United Nations principles, with a view to evaluating such issues, in order to have an

effective, efficient and accountable Joint Programme, and to report to the Economic and Social Council by 2021;

Given the volume of agenda items and the importance of ensuring that adequate time is allocated for each, the Chair proposed that the Bureau consider a Special Session consisting of two half-days (given the necessity of a virtual nature). The first day would be dedicated to the consideration and adoption of the Strategy. The second day would consist of two agenda items: the UBRAF and the PCB Report to ECOSOC.

To comply with the PCB decision points and to allow for timely inclusion of the Strategy in the Secretary-General's report for the High-Level Meeting, the Chair proposed that the Special Session be held in late March. This would also comply with the necessary timeline for the ECOSOC reports for 2021. Further to a discussion with the Executive Director, the Chair would formally propose a date to the PCB Bureau.

PCB Bureau members requested that the timewise agenda include a portion of time dedicated to the Strategy on the second day of the Special Session to ensure there is adequate time for discussion and consultation. The cosponsor representative noted that the Steering Group on the development of the new results and accountability framework has now been convened as the Strategy is being finalized. This group will meet on a weekly basis and is committed to building in consultations with stakeholders. The Special Session will be an opportunity to provide a progress update to the full PCB.

Further to the Bureau meeting, the Secretariat finalized a draft timewise agenda on the basis of the discussion for final clearance via email. Invitations to the March Special Session of the PCB will be sent shortly in accordance with the Modus Operandi.

In addition to the content for the March Special Session, the PCB Bureau discussed the modalities and procedures for such a session. As background to the discussion, the PCB Bureau received a draft paper on modalities and procedures for their consideration and approval to submit to the PCB for intersessional decision making.

The Chair announced that, in order to minimize the number of intersessional decisions required, the draft intersessional paper proposes modalities and procedures for any virtual PCB meeting to be held in 2021. The Chair invited the Secretariat to present on the draft paper.

The intersessional paper builds on the modalities and procedures used in the 46th and 47th PCB meetings from 2020, including the provision of pre-meeting session and utilizing the Zoom platform. Pre-meeting sessions would be planned in advance of virtual PCB meetings; the PCB Bureau would set the schedule of pre-meetings and consultations as necessary and communicate these in advance to the PCB.

Given that state of the pandemic, it is anticipated that the March Special Session and June PCB meeting will be fully virtual. A decision on the December meeting of the PCB will be taken later. In the event that an in-person meeting can be held, the PCB would revert to more traditional ways of working per the Modus Operandi. The Chair would communicate

to the Board in that case. If the Bureau would propose a hybrid meeting, a new modalities and procedures paper would need to be approved by the PCB.

The Secretariat reviewed three primary changes to the modalities and procedures of the virtual PCB meetings on the basis of the lessons learned from the 2020 PCB meetings:

- Speaker/listener status would be removed in favor of giving all representatives the right to speak. A maximum of six participants per members and four per observers, but this change would provide greater flexibility to participants.
- Pre-meetings will serve as the opportunity for all participants to raise any issues with the decision points and that, if determined as necessary by the PCB Bureau, a consultation on decision points could be held in advance of the PCB meeting with only PCB members. This will help broker consensus and provide a strong basis for the Chair's tabled decision points.
- In the event of a virtual meeting, an additional day will be added to ensure that there is appropriate timing for the agenda items and the thematic segment.

The draft intersessional paper was reviewed and cleared by legal counsel.

The Bureau welcomed the decision to have a single modalities and procedures paper for all virtual 2021 PCB meetings. Members noted that pre-meetings are very helpful, but also add significantly to the workload for PCB participants. The PCB Bureau will consider this workload in setting the schedule for the PCB pre-meetings and prioritize key agenda items. Bureau members also emphasized the importance of providing PowerPoint presentations with notes to permit those who cannot attend pre-meetings to engage with the materials.

Further to the meeting, the Secretariat finalized the modalities and procedures paper, which was approved by the PCB Bureau. The paper will be sent to intersessional decision making to the wider PCB.

3. PCB Report to ECOSOC

The Bureau will discuss the upcoming report of the PCB to ECOSOC on governance issues as requested by the 2019 ECOSOC Resolution on the Joint Programme: "Requests the Programme Coordinating Board to discuss governance issues of the Joint Programme, as well as how the Joint Programme could be sustainably core funded, in accordance with all relevant United Nations principles, with a view to evaluating such issues, in order to have an effective, efficient and accountable Joint Programme, and to report to the Economic and Social Council by 2021;"

The Chair recalled the relevant paragraphs from the 2019 ECOSOC resolution calling for a report from the PCB to provide a report to ECOSOC in 2021 on governance issues of the Joint Programme, as well as how the Joint Programme could be sustainably core funded. This report, called for in the 2019 ECOSOC resolution, will be the first of its kind.

The report of the PCB Working Group on the JIU Recommendations will provide a framework for the outline of the report. The Chair recalled the PCB decision from the 47th PCB meeting to include in this report a request the Secretary-General on the term limits and performance expectations of the Executive Director:

- “Agrees to include in the upcoming PCB report to ECOSOC a recommendation that the Council requests the Secretary-General to submit a report, after consultation with the PCB, on the establishment of two four-year term limits and performance expectations for the position of UNAIDS Executive Director in line with the practices of the UN system as recommended by the JIU”

To support the development of the report, an independent consultant had been recruited. As background to this agenda item, PCB Bureau members received a tentative timeline for the development and submission of the ECOSOC report (annex 2). The Secretariat presented the tentative timeline as follows:

- By the end of January, an outline of the report would be submitted for the Bureau’s review and clearance. Following this, the outline would be shared with the wider PCB.
- A briefing on the ECOSOC report outline would be held in early February. This would provide a touchpoint with PCB members who, in addition to their written comments, could provide statements and request clarification on any issues.
- At the March Special Session, the full report would be considered for possible adoption. As with all papers, it will be posted online in advance of the session.
- The PCB Report would then be submitted along with the EXD Report to ECOSOC by their tentative deadline of 28 April.
- Negotiations on the ECOSOC resolution take place in Geneva in early July facilitated by the Chair and Vice-Chair before the resolution is finally adopted in New York at the end of July.

Members of the PCB Bureau reiterated that the Report of the PCB Working Group on the JIU Recommendations would provide a useful framing of the PCB report to ECOSOC. Members expressed support for the timeline as drafted and requested continual updates on progress.

Further to the discussion, the Chair would move forward with the development of the draft outline with the support of the consultant. A draft outline will be submitted to the Bureau for comment by the end of the month. The Secretariat will organize a PCB Briefing on this subject.

4. Preparations for the June 2021 PCB Meeting

The Bureau will receive an update and provide guidance on the preparations for the 48th PCB meeting, including reviewing proposed agenda items.

The Chair introduced this agenda item by recalling the earlier agreement of the Bureau that the 48th PCB meeting is likely to virtual and would comply with the modalities and procedures for such a meeting. Given the virtual nature, the Chair requested that members consider the shortened timeframe for a meeting when discussing potential agenda items for the June meeting.

The Chair noted that setting the agenda for the 48th meeting well in advance provides the Secretariat with support to begin their work early and ensure timely provision of papers.

The Chair gave the floor to the Secretariat to provide an overview of possible agenda items for the 48th PCB meeting.

As background to this agenda item, PCB Bureau members received the table of follow-up agenda items for the 48th PCB meeting. These follow-up items capture all decision points and specific requests made by the PCB at previous meetings.

Standing Items: The following standing items are common practice for the June meeting of the PCB.

- **Report of the 47th PCB meeting: (confirmed for the Special Session)** The draft report of the previous meeting is currently being finalized and will be circulated to the Chair of the PCB in 2020, the USA, for clearance before posting. The modus operandi of the PCB requires that the report is posted shortly after the agenda is posted: “A report of the PCB meeting shall incorporate the recommendations, decisions and conclusions referred to in paragraph 30 above and be distributed to members and other participants within sixty days of the close of the meeting.”
- **Report of the Special Session: (confirmed for the 48th PCB meeting)** The report of the Special Session will be finalized and circulated to the 2021 PCB Chair for clearance before posting. The Modus Operandi of the PCB requires that the report is posted shortly after the agenda is posted: “A report of the PCB meeting shall incorporate the recommendations, decisions and conclusions referred to in paragraph 30 above and be distributed to members and other participants within sixty days of the close of the meeting.”
- **Report of the Executive Director: (confirmed for the 48th PCB meeting)** The report of the Executive Director is a standing item at all PCBs. The Executive Director traditionally releases an outline of the report in advance of the meeting. The full report is published following her delivery of the speech at the PCB. The report includes the most important achievements in the global AIDS response since the PCB last met, as well as emphasis on remaining challenges.
- **Report of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (CCO): (confirmed for the 48th PCB meeting)** This report is presented by WHO, the Chair of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations this year.
- **Report by the NGO Representative: (postponed to the 49th PCB meeting)** The NGO report is written by the NGO delegation, typically following extensive consultations with civil society globally, on a topic of their choice. The NGO Delegation will be able to guide you on the best timing for their report. Their most recent report was delivered in December on the history of the NGO Delegation contributions to the governance of UNAIDS.
- **Leadership in the AIDS Response: (confirmed for the 48th PCB meeting)** The Executive Director occasionally invites a speaker to present on a specific topic.

PCB Bureau members expressed a desire to have the leadership in the AIDS response item maintained at this PCB with a galvanizing speaker chosen to set the tone for the PCB meeting and re-energize the response after a difficult year.

- **Follow-up to the thematic segment on Cervical Cancer and HIV: (confirmed for the 48th PCB meeting)** As you may know, every PCB has a thematic segment on a timely topic selected by the PCB. This thematic segment takes place on the last day of the PCB, following the decision-making segment, and involves panels of speakers. There is no decision-making on the thematic segment at that meeting to give representatives the time and space to really engage with the discussions. At the subsequent PCB, a summary report of the thematic segment's presentations and discussions is provided for potential decision making. This report, the Follow-up to the thematic segment, will be on the topic from the 47th PCB meeting: *Cervical Cancer and HIV*. The summary report is being finalized and will be sent to the Bureau for discussion and clearance.
- **Update on strategic human resources management issues: (confirmed for the 48th PCB meeting)** In response to the request of the PCB at its 30th meeting in June 2012, this update provides information on human resources management activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the Joint Programme for a reporting period from April 2019-March 2020. As requested at the 47th PCB meeting, this report will also provide an update on concerns presented by the UNAIDS Staff Association from the 47th PCB meeting.
- **Statement by the representative of the UNAIDS Staff Association: (confirmed for the 48th PCB meeting)** The Statement by the UNAIDS Secretariat Staff Association provides a short overview of priority issues affected staff in UNAIDS. The Chair of the Staff Association delivers the statement.
- **UBRAF: (confirmed for the 48th PCB meeting)** The UBRAF includes the following two sub-items:
 - Performance reporting: typically this involves a package of four papers with an executive summary, organizational reporting, country and regional reporting, and strategic results area reporting
 - Financial reporting: audited financial statements and a financial update

Bureau members reiterated their support for the revised package as presented at the 44th and 46th PCB meetings.

- **Organizational Oversight Reports: (confirmed for the 48th PCB meeting)**
 - As you will recall, this was a recommendation from the JIU to the Executive Director who announced her intention to implement it moving forward.
 - The PCB concurred with this intention in decision point 9.4 from the 45th meeting, "Welcomes and affirms the commitment of the Executive Director to establish a regular stand-alone agenda item, in consultation with the Bureau of the Programme Coordinating Board, to cover internal and external audits, ethics, and other topics on accountability presented by the appropriate

independent functions in their respective reports to the Board starting at the 46th Programme Coordinating Board meeting.

- These reports had previously been given to the PCB as annexes to other reports, such as the financial report and human resources management update.
- **Thematic Segment: (confirmed for the 48th PCB meeting)** *COVID-19 and HIV – sustaining HIV responses and building back better and fairer HIV responses.* The topic of the thematic segments for 2021 was decided by the PCB at its 47th session. As is practice, the Secretariat is currently preparing the process and timeline for the establishment of a PCB working group to prepare the thematic segment. A call for expression of interest to be part of the working group will be sent by end of February.

Possible issues to be considered at the 48th PCB meeting

- **New Results and Accountability Framework 2022-2026, including budget for 2022-2023: (confirmed for the 48th PCB meeting)**
 - This new UBRAF will complement the Global AIDS Strategy 2022-2026.
 - The update on this framework will be provided to the March Special Session.
- **Update on implementation of the response for migrant and mobile populations (previously from a report of the NGO Delegation): (confirmed for the 48th PCB meeting)**
 - Recalling decision point 4.7 from the 43rd meeting, “Requests the Joint Programme to report back on progress in the implementation of the AIDS response for migrant and mobile populations, as well as refugees and crisis affected populations, as appropriate.”
 - The PCB Bureau in 2020 determined that this agenda item would be postponed to 2021.
 - The Secretariat has indicated it is prepared to report in either June or December 2021.

Bureau members expressed that this report would be timely given the impact of COVID on migrant and mobile populations.

- **Update on HIV in prisons and other closed settings:**
 - Recalling decision point 8.3 from the 41st PCB, “Requests the Joint Programme to report on progress and concrete actions taken on this topic at a meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board in 2020.”
 - The PCB Bureau in 2020 determined that this agenda item would be postponed to 2021.

Given the volume of agenda items, the PCB Bureau agreed to postpone this agenda item to the 49th PCB meeting in December 2021.

- **Task team on community led responses**

- Recalling the decision 6.2 taken at the 45th PCB meeting under item Progress report on barriers to effective funding of community-led responses:
- “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”
- Recalling decision point 10.4, “Requests the Joint Programme to:
 - 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;

Given the volume of agenda items and to align with the schedule of the UNAIDS Monitoring and Technical Advisory Group, the PCB Bureau agreed to postpone this agenda item to a later PCB.

- **Evaluation Plan**

- Recalling decision point 9.2 from the 47th PCB meeting: “Welcomes progress in the implementation of the Evaluation Policy and Evaluation Plan, recognizes the important work done by the Expert Advisory Committee in support of the UNAIDS Evaluation Office and requests the next annual report to be presented to the Programme Coordinating Board in 2021;”
- At its meeting in November 2020, the PCB Bureau suggested that the next annual report should be presented at the 49th PCB meeting in order to align with the release of evaluations.

Given the volume of agenda items and to align with the schedule of evaluations, the PCB Bureau agreed to postpone this agenda item to the 49th PCB meeting.

- **Report on the progress on action to reduce stigma and discrimination in all its forms**

- Recalling decision point 8.2 of the 45th PCB, “Requests the UNAIDS Joint Programme to: d) report back to the Programme Coordinating Board on progress made on reducing HIV-related stigma and discrimination”
- The most recent report on stigma and discrimination was given to the 45th PCB in December 2019.

Members of the PCB Bureau expressed the importance of this agenda item and of receiving an update on the Global Partnership on Stigma and Discrimination. Given the volume of agenda items, the PCB Bureau Chair suggested that the Bureau will make a decision further to receiving the draft timewise agenda as well as the advice of the Secretariat.

On the basis of these confirmations, the Chair requested the Secretariat to draft an agenda and timewise agenda to submit for approval by email. Once approved, the agenda will be posted online.

5. Establishment of the Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee

The Bureau will receive an update on the establishment of the independent external oversight advisory committee further to the approval of the TOR at the 47th PCB meeting.

In advance of the meeting, the PCB Bureau members received a draft timeline for the establishment of the independent external oversight advisory committee. The Chair recalled that the PCB approved the establishment and terms of reference for Committee at the 47th PCB meeting.

The Chair gave the floor to the Secretariat to present the timeline:

- Per the TORs for the external oversight advisory committee, “The UNAIDS Executive Director shall in consultation with the PCB Bureau:
 - a) place a call for expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced individuals through advertisements in reputable international magazines and/or newspapers with wide geographical circulation, and on the Internet;
 - b) inform the PCB members and observers of the search process.
 - c) engage an external consultant or a professional search firm specialized in the recruitment for senior positions, to screen all applications, interview candidates deemed suitable, and prepare a shortlist of the most suitable candidate based on the criteria for recruitment. In finalizing the shortlist due regard will be given to the diversity referred to in Paragraph 10. The consultant shall provide a report containing a brief assessment of the unsuccessful candidates; and
 - d) constitute a selection panel; decisions of the selection panel will be made by consensus; if consensus cannot be reached, the issue will be referred to the PCB Bureau.
- The PCB Bureau shall review the final selection of candidates and, if in full agreement, refer it to the PCB for final consideration and approval. If full agreement cannot be reached by the Bureau, the issue will be referred to the PCB.”
- As detailed in the timeline (annex 3), the Executive Director plans to launch the recruitment of an external consultant or professional search firm shortly with the aim of having the selection of members before the 48th PCB meeting in June. The PCB would then approve the committee intersessionally.
- The Secretariat anticipates that the committee would be operational in the fall and could provide, if requested by the Bureau, a progress report on their establishment and work at the 49th PCB meeting.

- The Committee would then provide their first official annual report in June 2022.

Bureau members noted the importance of allotting appropriate time to find and select qualified members, especially in the time of COVID.

6. Any other business


The Secretariat recalled that there will be two reports this year that will form the basis for the 2021 ECOSOC resolution: the PCB's report and the traditional report of the UNAIDS Executive Director as transmitted by the Secretary-General.

The Chair thanked the Bureau members for their time and closed the meeting.

[Annexes follow]

Annexes:

Annex 1: Table of follow-up items from PCB meetings

		
Annex 1: Table of follow-up items from PCB meetings - for possible inclusion in the agenda of the 48th PCB Meeting and March Special Session		
AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MARCH 2021 SPECIAL SESSION (DATES TBD)		
Possible items for the March 2021 Special Session	Decision Number	Agenda items
47th	10.3	[UNAIDS Strategy beyond 2021] Requests the Bureau to organize a PCB Briefing by the end of January 2021 for presentation of the revised framework, including an executive summary for the UNAIDS Strategy, identifying the prioritized actions needed to end AIDS by 2030 and taking into account the comments of the 47th Programme Coordinating Board;
47th	10.4	Requests the Executive Director to present the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 at a special session of the PCB no later than March 2021 for consideration and adoption;
47th	9.5	[Evaluation - Management Response] Takes note of the current progress of the UNAIDS management response to the Independent Evaluation of the UN System Response to AIDS 2016-2019 and requests the Joint Programme to show how it intends to support countries in implementing the Global AIDS strategy 2021-2026 with greater specificity of action, contributions and accountability, through its new results and accountability framework, at the March 2021 Special Session;
ECOSOC 2019	12	[ECOSOC Resolution 2019] Requests the Programme Coordinating Board to discuss governance issues of the Joint Programme, as well as how the Joint Programme could be sustainably core funded, in accordance with all relevant United Nations principles, with a view to evaluating such issues, in order to have an effective, efficient and accountable Joint Programme, and to report to the Economic and Social Council by 2021;
		Relevant decision from 47th PCB Meeting
	13.8	[Report of the PCB Working Group on the JIU Recommendations] Agrees to include in the upcoming PCB report to ECOSOC a recommendation that the Council requests the Secretary-General to submit a report, after consultation with the PCB, on the establishment of two four-year term limits and performance expectations for the position of UNAIDS Executive Director in line with the best practices of the UN system as recommended by the JIU

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE 48th PCB MEETING (29 June - 1 July 2021)		
Standing items	Agenda items	
		Report of the 47th PCB meeting
		Executive Director (EXD) report
		Report of the Chair of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations
		Report by the NGO representative
		Follow-up to the thematic segment from the 47th Programme Coordinating Board meeting: <i>Cervical cancer and HIV-addressing linkages and common inequalities to save women's lives</i>
		UBRAF 2016-2021 (Performance and Financial reporting)
		Update on strategic human resource management issues (including MAP and issues raised by staff association per DP 11.2 from the 47th PCB meeting)
		Statement by the USSA
		Organizational oversight reports
		Thematic segment: <i>COVID-19 & HIV : sustaining HIV gains and building back better and fairer HIV responses</i>
		Leadership in in the AIDS response
Possible items for the 48th PCB meeting	Decision Number	Agenda items
47th	9.5	New Results and Accountability Framework 2022-2026, including budget for 2022-2023 (as decided at the 47th PCB meeting, to include children and youth, mental health, and prevention in UBRAF)
43rd	4.7	[People on the move– key to ending AIDS] (decisions from a previous NGO Delegation report) <i>Requests the Joint Programme to report back on progress in the implementation of the AIDS response for migrant and mobile populations, as well as refugees and crisis affected populations, as appropriate.</i> <i>At its meeting in July 2020, the PCB Bureau agreed to postpone this report until 2021.</i>
41st (12/2017)	8.3	[Update on HIV in prisons and other closed settings] <i>Requests the Joint Programme to report on progress and concrete actions taken on this topic at a meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board in 2020</i> <i>At its meeting in July 2020, the PCB Bureau agreed to postpone this report until 2021.</i>
Agenda items with no defined timeline		
47th	8.4	[Report of the Task Team on Community-led AIDS responses] <i>to receiving the final recommendations at a future PCB meeting</i> <i>Looks forward</i> <i>Previous decision points included for ease of reference</i>
	6.2	<i>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.</i> <i>Decision 10.4b of the 43rd PCB: Requests the Joint Programme to:</i> <i>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;</i>
47th	9.2	[Annual Report on Evaluation] <i>progress in the implementation of the Evaluation Policy and Evaluation Plan, recognizes the important work done by the Expert Advisory Committee in support of the UNAIDS Evaluation Office and requests the next annual report to be presented to the Programme Coordinating Board in 2021;</i> <i>the PCB Bureau suggested that the next annual report should be presented at the 49th PCB meeting.</i> <i>Welcomes</i> <i>At its meeting in November 2020,</i>
45th	8.2	[Report on progress on actions to reduce stigma and discrimination in all its forms] <i>the UNAIDS Joint Programme to:</i> <i>Member States, civil society, networks of key populations and other partners, including national, regional and international human rights institutions and bodies, to set national targets and programmatic indicators to track progress and report impact of stigma and discrimination reduction programmes in routine monitoring and reporting mechanisms;</i> <i>technical assistance, and develop synergies between the Global Partnership for action to eliminate all forms of HIV related stigma and discrimination and bilateral and multilateral donors and other stakeholders investing in programmes to eliminate stigma and discrimination in all its forms at national, regional and global level;</i> <i>civil society, women and adolescent organizations, networks of people living with HIV and key populations at country level to demand discrimination-free services and participate in the design, implementation and tracking of programmes to end discrimination; and</i> <i>d. Report back to the Programme Coordinating Board on progress made on reducing HIV-related stigma and discrimination;</i> <i>Requests</i> <i>a. Support</i> <i>b. Coordinate and increase</i> <i>c. Continue to strengthen capacities of</i>

Annex 2: Summary of PCB comments on the Strategy at the 47th PCB meeting

Introduction

The UNAIDS Secretariat presented an annotated outline of the next global AIDS Strategy to the 47th meeting of the PCB and briefed it on the process for developing the Strategy, its main elements and the envisaged timeline for finalizing it. In discussion, members and observers shared a wide range of comments and suggestions, which are summarized below.

General observations

Members and observers said they appreciated the work done thus far on the next global AIDS Strategy and praised the inclusive process.

They stressed that the Strategy had to be ambitious enough to reach the 2025 and 2030 targets, which meant dramatically accelerating the HIV response in very difficult circumstances.

Speakers noted that some countries had already achieved HIV epidemic control, a goal that had seemed unimaginable a decade ago. Some countries have also achieved the 90–90–90 targets or exceeded them. The Strategy must prioritize existing gaps and outline targeted actions to address them. That underscores the need for strong guidance and leadership, both normative and political, to drive such a response, they said.

The Strategy outline describes an ambitious Strategy which rests on key pillars of the current Strategy, while prioritizing actions and aspects that need further attention. Speakers felt that Strategy outline captured the key themes of a potentially successful response and reflected the urgency of the situation. They agreed that the main pillars of the current Strategy should be kept.

There was strong agreement on the need for a focused Strategy which clearly identifies and communicates priorities and goals, and which connects those priorities with the SDGs. The Strategy has to be fully embedded in the SDGs and the UN reforms.

The Strategy should also build on UNAIDS' normative role and strong technical capacity, especially in the areas of strategic information.

Speakers commended the Strategy outline for putting people living with HIV, key populations, adolescent girls and young women and other people who are most vulnerable at the centre of the HIV response, for strongly promoting human rights-based approaches and emphasizing the centrality of community-led services.

They agreed that HIV prevention should be a cornerstone of the Strategy, and appreciated the emphasis on country-specific primary prevention strategies, and on ensuring that interventions reach and benefit adolescent girls and young women and key populations who are disproportionately at risk.

Members and observers applauded the emphasis on addressing the social and structural drivers of the epidemic, and the stigma and discrimination faced by key populations and people living with HIV.

They also appreciated the focus on integration (including integration of the HIV response with efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage) and the emphasis on stronger integration of HIV services with sexual and reproductive health and rights, paediatric and other health services.

Speakers stressed that the success of the Strategy depended on a fully-funded UBRAF, with predictable and flexible funding to support full implementation, and called on PCB members and

other donors to provide the funding that was needed to reach the 2025 and 2030 targets.

Speakers noted the Secretariat's acknowledgement that the PCB had a constructive role to play in strategic oversight of the operationalization of the Strategy and said they welcomed further clarification of plans to brief the PCB on that process.

Specific content issues and suggestions

The Strategy must set well-defined priorities, with clear indicators for monitoring results and achieving accountability.

The Strategy has to facilitate monitoring and measuring of results, including the contributions of Cosponsors and other UN partners. Indicators and other monitoring elements must be strengthened so countries can monitor implementation of the Strategy and results, and strong accountability can be achieved. Useful indicators and other accountability tools from the Global HIV Prevention Coalition should be integrated into the Strategy and UBRAF.

A top priority are actions that will interrupt HIV transmission. This includes strengthened and more effective efforts to serve the least empowered and most marginalized communities, and address the intersectional inequalities that drive the epidemic and hold back the HIV response.

Prevention should be a cornerstone of the Strategy, with clear priorities and measurable targets, including overcoming legal, political and human rights barriers that stand in the way.

Those actions should reflect the urgency of unfinished business, especially in relation to the populations that are being left behind—notably key populations and adolescent girls and young women. They must address key social, structural and legal factors that hold back the HIV response.

Members and observers also stressed that the Strategy must:

- promote strong political leadership, greater solidarity and common responsibility;
- focus strongly on stigma and discrimination, human rights, gender equality and gender-based violence, and sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- emphasize the centrality of community-led responses and the dangers of shrinking civil space;
- support the strengthening of community health systems and their integration into public health systems, especially at the levels of primary health care;
- highlight the need to address HIV in emergency and humanitarian contexts, and expand HIV-sensitive social protection;
- take account of the specificities of HIV epidemics in different countries and settings;
- highlight the linking or integrating of HIV services with sexual and reproductive health and rights (including comprehensive sex education) programmes;
- promote the development and use of new, effective prevention technologies and methods, and of paediatric HIV treatments; and
- explicitly address the need to support countries in the local production of medicines and other essential health commodities.

It was suggested that the independent evaluations conducted thus far, including by the Joint Inspection Unit, provide useful information for the further development of the next Strategy.

Concerns and specific suggestions

Members and observers raised some concerns and shared suggestions for further improvement of the next Strategy.

They speakers said the Strategy outline, although extensive, was broad and generalized, and that its HIV-specific elements were not clear enough.

While supporting the focus on strategic "game-changers", accelerate actions and highlight underprioritized issues and populations, speakers were concerned that the current outline did not sufficiently prioritize the key areas and actions that will bring about the end of AIDS.

Speakers felt that not all the current result areas were and could be of equal priority in a workable Strategy; some were a greater priority than others, and the Strategy should reflect that.

They suggested reducing the number of result areas (which had increased from 8 in the current Strategy to 12 in the Strategy outline). It was suggested to combine and reduce the result areas to no more than 8. (One specific suggestion was to combine result areas 3 and 4 into a result area on key populations, and to combine result areas 7 and 8 into one on stigma, discrimination and gender equity.)

The selected priorities should be evidence-based, i.e. point to areas which evidence shows require most urgent action and to actions which have the greatest impact. Speakers were confident that UNAIDS has the information and expertise to carry out such prioritization.

There were concerns about a lack of clarity regarding the core work of the Secretariat and the Cosponsors, respectively. Some speakers questioned whether all elements of the strategic framework fell squarely within UNAIDS' mandate.

Some speakers questioned whether it was realistic to set 95–95–95 targets for 2025, given that prevention progress lagged so far behind the 2020 targets.

Other issues

- People living with HIV do not feature prominently enough in the Strategy outline.
- The indicators for guiding and monitoring priority actions under the various result areas can be sharpened.
- Definitions of key populations should not be restrictive and should reflect different realities in different settings.
- The Strategy can show more clearly how key populations will be included and empowered to play leadership roles in HIV responses.
- The Strategy should refer to "people who use drugs, including those who inject drugs" (not only "people who inject drugs"), in line with the 2016 Political Declaration on Ending AIDS.
- The importance of regional intergovernmental collaboration in countries' health and development efforts should be noted.
- In-country dialogues could be organized to feed into a global experts meeting on HIV and indigenous groups.
- There may not be consensus among members on all the issues, and compromise will be necessary on some matters.

Looking ahead to the zero draft of the full Strategy

Members and observers requested that the full Strategy be more compact. The schema and result areas can be simplified further. A prioritized framework with fewer result areas and a clear hierarchy of targets is needed to focus attention where actions are most urgently needed.

The zero draft of the full Strategy also needs a sharper narrative and clear, compelling headline messages on what is required to meet the 2025 targets. It should include a brief, high-level summary of the Strategy, the main aims and how the targets and goals will be achieved.

The Strategy should clearly describe the unique value and contribution of the Joint Programme, and show how UNAIDS can leverage and complement the resources of the Global Fund, PEPFAR and others key partners.

Speakers agreed on the need for a simpler, clearer and more strategic UBRAF to drive accountability under the new Strategy.










The proposed timeline

Members and observers recognized the importance of finalizing the next Strategy by March 2021, and agreed that the PCB should support efforts to meet that deadline.

There was a request that a zero draft of the full Strategy be made available to PCB members prior to the PCB briefing in January (the Secretariat agreed to this).

Also requested was a clear timeline for the next steps and clarity about the opportunities for consulting and commenting on Strategy drafts before adoption of the Strategy in March 2021.

Annex 3: Timeline for the PCB Report to ECOSOC

-  **January:** PCB Bureau discussion on report and consultant contracted to write report.
-  **February:** Outline of report cleared by PCB Bureau and submitted to PCB for comment
-  **February:** Briefing of PCB on ECOSOC report outline
-  **Early March:** Full report published ahead of the March Special Session
-  **March:** PCB Special Session discussion and adoption of the ECOSOC report.
-  **End of March:** PCB 2021 ECOSOC Report finalized on basis of comments from Special Session.
-  **28 April:** PCB Report and EXD Report submitted to ECOSOC
-  **Early July:** Negotiations on ECOSOC 2021 Resolution in Geneva
-  **Late July:** ECOSOC 2021 Discussion and Adoption of Resolution

Annex 4: Timeline for the establishment of the Oversight Accountability Committee

-  **January:** Initiate recruitment of an external consultant or professional search firm
-  **February:** Finalize contract of external consultant or professional search firm
-  **March-May:** Consultant or professional search firm initiates call for interest, screens interviews and prepares a shortlist of candidates.
-  **May:** Selection panel constituted. If consensus cannot be reached, the issue will be referred to the PCB Bureau. The PCB would approve the committee intersessionally.
-  **June:** Aim for first meeting of the Committee (virtual)
-  **December:** Progress report from the committee submitted to the 49th PCB meeting.
-  **June 2022:** First annual report from the oversight committee.