

UNAIDS PCB BUREAU MEETING

DATE: Monday, 15 March 2021 and Friday, 19 March 2021

TIME: 9:30-11:30

VENUE: Teams meeting (Virtual)

Draft PCB Bureau Meeting Agenda for Monday, 15 March 2021

1. Next steps of the Global AIDS Strategy adoption
2. Next steps for the UBRAF agenda item
3. Next steps for the PCB's report to ECOSOC

PARTICIPANTS:

PCB Bureau: Dr Kalumbi Shangula, Dr Laimi Ashipala and Ms Xungileni Chitundu (Namibia: representing the Chair); Mr Suwit Wibulpolprasert, Mr. Thaksaphon Thammarangsi and Mr Natee Vichitsorasatra (Thailand: representing the Vice-Chair); Ms Julia Martin and Ms Deana Jordan Sullivan (United States of America: representing the Rapporteur); Mr Alexander Pastoors and Ms Jules Kim (representing the PCB NGO Delegation); and Mr Andy Seale and 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

SUMMARY – 15 March

The Chair welcomed the Bureau members and thanked them for agreeing to meet on short notice following the PCB pre-meetings. The Chair noted that, with the Special Session rapidly approaching, it was essential to consider the feedback provided at the pre-meeting sessions held on Tuesday and Thursday, 9 and 11 March 2021, and to discuss the way forward to ensure smooth decision making at the Special Session.

In advance of the meeting, the PCB Bureau members received a summary of the feedback from the pre-meeting sessions as background for the discussion.

The Chair reiterated that, following the PCB pre-meeting sessions, the Chair considered it necessary to add an additional touchpoint for PCB members to discuss the agenda items before the consultation on decision points to be held on Monday, 22 March, and prior to the March Special Session. Accordingly, the Chair had invited registered PCB members (twenty-two Member States, cosponsors and the NGO Delegation) to a dialogue on Thursday, 18 March 2021 from 13:00-16:30.

The Chair hopes that this dialogue will help PCB members reach consensus and to provide an opportunity to respond to concerns raised in the pre-meeting sessions. The PCB Bureau's meeting would focus on the framing for this dialogue.

The Chair requested that members prepare to have an additional PCB Bureau meeting on Friday, 19 March 2021, to discuss the outcome of the dialogue and prepare for the Special Session.

The Chair proposed to go through each agenda item and discuss the way forward.

1. Global AIDS Strategy

The Chair noted that significant support had been expressed for the adoption of the Strategy, including explicit recognition of the inequality framework and the revision of the results areas to include separate results area on gender and youth. The Chair also recognized that there were a series of comments indicating requests for potential changes.

The Chair requested that Bureau members provide feedback on a framing for the dialogue on Thursday with PCB members to address these concerns.

Bureau members thanked the Chair for their leadership and, recalling the unique governance structure of UNAIDS, reiterated the importance of adopting the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 by consensus at the March Special Session. Members supported the Chair's decision to hold an additional touchpoint with PCB members as an opportunity to discuss feedback provided during the pre-meeting session and to support smooth consensus decision making. Bureau members noted that there had been considerable support for the adoption of the Strategy text as tabled and reiterated the aim of achieving maximum consensus on the Strategy adoption. The Thursday dialogue with PCB members would be an important opportunity to continue the consultations and discussions aimed at reaching consensus ahead of the consultation on decision points.

Bureau members recalled that the Strategy is a global guidance document based on best-practice, evidence-based interventions. All countries and communities will adapt the Strategy in their implementation based on their epidemiological contexts. The Bureau reiterated their commitment to working with all delegations, including those who have raised concern.

The Chair also noted that the Secretariat had identified some data errors in the posted version. Regardless of the outcome of the consultation, the Chair noted their support for "fixing" the data issues. In accordance with independent legal advice and in the interest of transparency, the Secretariat would publish a document detailing exactly what data errors had been addressed.

The Bureau members supported the correction of any data errors and looked forward to the publication of the document identifying these corrections.

2. UBRAF

The Chair recalled that there was support for the proposed option to hold a Special Session of the PCB to adopt the UBRAF in September, but also noted that there were requests to clarify the deliverable for the June PCB in such a case.

The Chair also recalled that a specific suggestion had been raised to propose a four-year cycle with a bridge year as an option to better align the Strategy, QCPR, and UBRAF. There were also requests for the specific inclusion of key elements in the ultimate framework of the UBRAF, including enhancing the participation of civil society and using the UBRAF to help monitor results against reducing inequalities.

The Joint Programme considered the feedback provided and will be submitting a revised version of the document.

Bureau members thanked the Secretariat for the update and looked forward to the revised version.

3. PCB Report to ECOSOC

The Chair noted that the PCB Report to ECOSOC was welcomed at the pre-meeting session with explicit support for the framing of the report, including recognizing the unique role of civil society and the documentation of the evolution of governance in the PCB since its establishment.

The Chair noted that there were two explicit comments for the Bureau to consider:

- One request for clarification on why the IEP was not included as an important evolution of the PCB. The Chair responded to this request, noting that the issues in the IEP were well-reflected in the JIU report, which the Bureau agreed to use as a starting point.
- One recommendation that there be a recommendation included stating that “the development of strategies and strategic approaches is based on stakeholder-owned and consensus-based processes.”

One member had indicated that they would not be able to accept the paper as is without the inclusion of the recommendation. The Chair noted that consensus on this report is particularly important. To respond to concerns, the Chair proposed adding an additional line within the paper to reflect the concern raised: “Active engagement of PCB members and UN member states is critical in the process of development of AIDS strategies to ensure consensus and broad ownership.”

The Chair requested feedback from the Bureau members on the proposed revision. If in agreement, the Chair would revise the paper and issue a rev1 version.

Bureau members welcomed the Chair’s proposal to support consensus. The revised version of the paper was subsequently posted.

4. AOB

There was no other business raised.

SUMMARY – 19 March

Following the additional dialogue held with PCB members on 18 March 2021, the PCB Bureau reconvened. Bureau members appreciated that the dialogue had provided PCB members with an additional opportunity to discuss any remaining concerns. Bureau members note that the majority

of speakers had indicated support for the adoption of the Strategy. The Bureau noted that some members did not express themselves. The Bureau reiterated that they are committed to seeking consensus at the upcoming Special Session and looked forward to continuing the conversation at the upcoming consultation on decision points to be held on Monday, 22 March 2021.

The Chair noted that there was an explicit request from one member that their legal questions be answered in a written document publicly available on the PCB website. Further to consultation with the independent legal counsel, the Secretariat provided the following clarification on the questions raised:

- In Para. 10.4 of the decisions adopted at its 47th session, the PCB has requested the UNAIDS 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 ». The adoption of such a document falls within the competence of the PCB « to establish broad policies and priorities for the Joint Programme » and « to review and decide upon the planning and execution of the Joint Programme », as laid down in ECOSOC Resolution 1995/2 and reflected in para. 5, i) and ii) of the PCB Modus Operandi.
- The strategy adopted by the PCB, even if it is called « Global AIDS Strategy », will only have effect in the framework of the Joint Programme. It will be binding on the UNAIDS secretariat, whose task is to implement the PCB decisions. The adopted strategy will also have to be incorporated in the cosponsors' programmes and activities , as laid down in section II, para. 5 of ECOSOC Resolution 1994/24. Furthermore, Annex 1 to the PCB Modus Operandi requests the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations « ... v) to review the activities of each Cosponsoring Organization for appropriate support of, as well as consistency and coordination with, the activities and strategies of the Joint Programme ».
- As for any PCB decision, the adopted strategy will not be legally binding on UN Member states. Each state will be able to define and implement its own AIDS policy and will not be obliged to abide by the strategy defined for the Joint Programme.

The Chair also noted that the member could also request clarification from the legal counsel during the Special Session and that the report of the meeting would then reflect the intervention.

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