

# **UNAIDS PCB Bureau meeting**

DATE: Thursday, 20 October 2022 TIME: 15:00-16:30 (Geneva time) VENUE: Virtual through Zoom

PCB Bureau: H.E. Mr Rongvudhi Virabutr, Ms Parichart Chantcharas, Mr Natee Vichitsorasatra, and Dr Cha-aim Pachanee representing the PCB Chair (Thailand); Mr Binod Mahanty, Ms. Claudia Böehm (representing the PCB Vice-Chair: Germany); Dr Ruth Marsha, and Dr Peace Mutuma representing the PCB Rapporteur (Kenya); Dr Chewe Luo and Dr Bettina Schunter representing the Chair of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (CCO); and Ms Dinah Bones and Mr Jumoke Patrick representing the PCB NGO Delegation.

Co-chairs of the Informal Multistakeholder Task Team (Task Team) on UNAIDS funding situation: Ms. Julia Martin and Dr Mohamed Chakroun (excused).

Independent report writer: Mr. Mike Isbell.

**UNAIDS Secretariat:** Mr. Efraim Gomez, Chief of Staff and Coordinator of Secretariat support to the Task Team; Mr. Morten Ussing, Director, Governance and Multilateral Affairs; Ms. Samia Lounnas, Senior Governance Advisor; Ms. Marie-Claude Julsaint, Donor Relations Advisor; and Ms. Sara Amara, Governance intern.

#### **MEETING DRAFT AGENDA**

- 1. Presentation and discussion on the recommendations of the Informal Multistakeholder Task Team on UNAIDS funding situation: The co-chairs of the Task Team will present and discuss with the Bureau the work and recommendations of the Task Team on UNAIDS funding situation.
- 2. Discussion and agreement on the Bureau's outline of the report to the PCB on UNAIDS funding situation on the basis of the recommendations of the Informal Multistakeholder Task Team: The PCB Bureau will discuss, review, and agree on the outline of their report to the PCB on UNAIDS funding situation on the basis of the recommendations of the Informal Multistakeholder Task Team.
- 3. **AOB**

#### **Opening remarks**

The Chair welcomed all participants to the Bureau meeting and thanked the co-chair of the Informal Multistakeholder Task Team on UNAIDS funding situation/crisis (Task Team), Ms. Julia Martin (from USA) for joining the Bureau meeting to present the outcome of the work of the Task Team and their recommendations to support UNAIDS in overcoming the challenges

regarding its funding situation, as requested by the PCB at its 50th meeting in June 2022 under decision points 6.7 and 6.8.

The Chair also welcomed the independent report writer, Mr. Mike Isbell, who has supported the Task Team during its 4 meetings and the Bureau in preparing its first report to the PCB in July and who will continue to support the Bureau in developing their final report to the PCB on UNAIDS funding situation on the basis of the recommendations of the Task Team.

The Chair indicated that, as outlined in the draft agenda that the Bureau members received ahead of the meeting, the meeting will begin with a presentation by the co-chairs followed by questions and answers on the proposed Task Team recommendations on UNAIDS funding situation, followed by a closed Bureau meeting to finalize the outline of their report to the PCB, which might need to be further finetuned following the Strategic Funding Dialogue, and posted on the PCB website at the latest on 17 November 2022.

The PCB Bureau members adopted the agenda.

# 1. Presentation and discussion on the recommendations of the Informal Multistakeholder Task Team on UNAIDS funding situation

The Chair invited Ms. Julia Martin, co-chair of the Task Team, to present the outcome of the work of the Task Team. The co-chair presented the recommendations of the Task Team, which are available in the PowerPoint presentation (**Annex 1**) used in this regard.

At the outset, the co-chair of the Task Team stressed the importance of ensuring that UNAIDS is fully funded to perform its mandate and goals and the Task Team has reflected this as an important foundation to agree on the recommendations to resolve UNAIDS funding situation and challenges.

Starting with the short-term recommendations, Ms Martin recalled the recommendations adopted by the Bureau as follows:

# Recommendation 1: Addressing currency fluctuations on the Joint Programme's funding:

- Recommendation 1.1: Governments requested to augment their planned 2022 and 2023 funding commitments to the Joint Programme with funds equal to the loss of funds as a result of the significant change in foreign currency exchange (as an estimate or actuals at the end of the fiscal year).
- Recommendation 1.2: UNAIDS donors consider the use of a Memorandum of Understanding with preferential currency rates (as determined by the donor) with the Joint Programme.

# Recommendation 2: Promote co-investment in the Global Fund and the Joint Programme:

- Recommendation 2.1: Encourage simultaneous announcements of co-investment to the Joint Programme and the Global Fund.
- Recommendation 2.2: Take immediate steps to encourage balanced contributions to both the Global Fund and the Joint Programme

#### Recommendation 3: Build solidarity and engagement by the PCB:

- Recommendation 3.1: Each of the 11 donor PCB Member State1 (2022) be requested to increase its voluntary commitment to the Joint Programme UBRAF.
- Recommendation 3.2: For the other current 11 PCB Member States- the PCB members qualifying as LIC3 and LMIC4 are requested to contribute US\$ 500 000 to the Joint

Programme, and those that are UMIC5 and HIC are requested to contribute US\$ 1 million to the Joint Programme

Ms Martin indicated that follow-up actions were conducted to implement these recommendations, in particular recommendation 3, through sending letters co-signed by UNAIDS Executive Director and the co-chairs of the Task Team to the 22 current PCB Member States (see **Annex 2** for a sample letter).

The co-chair also indicated that significant work has been done to promote and inform about the important work of UNAIDS as a Joint Programme at the country level in relation to Global Fund (GF) grants, from proposal development level to implementation, monitoring and measuring impact. The GF replenishment conference was an opportunity for key donors to speak about UNAIDS funding situation and the risk related to it, particularly in relation to the Global Fund processes at country level.

PCB Bureau members thanked the co-chair and the Task Team members for their follow-up actions with the Secretariat on the implementation of the short-term recommendations and recommended that the letters be sent beyond the current 22 Member States to all observer Member States.

Ms Martin, co-chair of the Task Team then provided the Bureau members with the proposed recommendations for longer-term sustainable funding for the Joint Programme, as well as elements of key enablers as agreed by the Task Team members, while noting that there will be one last meeting of the Task Team on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 to finalize their final recommendations before submitting them to the PCB Bureau. The proposed recommendations discussed by the Task Team members are as follows:

## Ongoing Solidarity and engagement with the PCB

- 1.1 Each of the 11 donor PCB Member State be requested to increase its voluntary commitment to the Joint Programme UBRAF.
- 1.2 For the other current 11 PCB Member States: the PCB members qualifying as LIC and LMIC are requested to contribute at least US\$ 500 000 to the Joint Programme, and those that are UMIC and HIC are requested to contribute at least US\$ 1 million to the Joint Programme. This commitment would be on a yearly ongoing basis.
- 1.3 Observer Member States are requested to contribute either US\$500 000 to the Joint Program as an LIC and LMIC, or those that are UMIC and HIC are requested to contribute at least US\$ 1 million to the Joint Programme. This commitment would be on a yearly ongoing basis.

#### Continue to commit to core funding for the JP

- 2.1 Donors to UNAIDS to adopt the best practice utilized by other UN Funds and programs, to commit to Multi Year Funding Agreements, for the full Strategy period or the Global Fund replenishment cycle.
- 2.2 As an alternative option, donors to UNAIDS to commit to Multi Year Funding Agreements that align to the current Global Fund replenishment cycle (2022-25).
- 2.3 UNAIDS donors consider the use of a Memorandum of Understanding with preferential currency rates (as determined by the donor), or other steps to iron out the effects of currency fluctuations.
- 2.4 In addition to core funding, donors to open opportunities for specified core funding to UNAIDS.

## Leveraging the relationship of the JP with the Global Fund

3.1 Encouraging donors to use a "fair share" approach for their contribution to the Joint Programme at a request UNAIDS donors, including those that do not contribute to the Global

Fund, to use a "fair share" approach, based on the calculation of their assessed contribution to WHO.

3.2 Ongoing commitment of the Technical Set Aside funding to UNAIDS

Encourage donor countries who commit funding to the Global Fund and have Technical Support Set Aside funding, to prioritise the Joint Programme for the commitment of that funding where the Joint Programme is best placed to provide the technical support.

3.3 Commitment of the equivalent of the Technical Set Aside funding to UNAIDS (as a guide this should be at least 5% of the Donor Investment to the Global Fund)

For donor countries who cannot redirect the Technical Set Aside, or do not have a Technical Set Aside function commit at least 5% of their annual contribution to Global Fund to UNAIDS.

- 3.4 The development of a new funding mechanism or arrangement between the Global Fund and UNAIDS providing \$31M USD per year to the UNAIDS Core Funding.
- 3.5 Develop a new funding mechanism or arrangement between the Global Fund and UNAIDS which directs funding to the Joint Programme for its support of Global Fund country allocation implementation.
- 3.6 The Global Fund to act as a guarantor for the Joint Programme budget. The development of a funding mechanism where the Global Fund acts as a guarantor to ensure that the Joint Programme is fully funded each year.
  - 3.7 Accessing Country Grants

The Joint Programme is prioritized to received technical assistance in Country Grants.

The co-chair underscored to the PCB Bureau that those conversations on long term sustainable funding for UNAIDS are more complex in the current global political environment. Ms Martin added that key donors are also expecting to advocate and commit to UNAIDS on the basis of the resource mobilization strategy that is currently being finalized and stressed the importance that it is very closely linked to the implementation of the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026. Ms Martin added that it is important to note that every country has its specific foreign policy agenda and that for resource mobilization purposes, it is important that UNAIDS work is seen to provide value to these policies. This emphasizes the importance of having a robust resource mobilization strategy that reflects very well the value proposition of the Joint Programme. The co-chair informed the PCB Bureau that there will be a last meeting of the Task Team on 1st November 2022 to review all the recommendations and finalize the remaining ones including the discussion with the Cosponsors on core and non-core UBRAF funds, as well as country envelopes, and finally the involvement of other possible donors for UNAIDS including private sector and foundations.

PCB Bureau members thanked the co-chairs and the Task Team for their work on the longer-term recommendations for UNAIDS funding situation, which will be reflected in the PCB Bureau report once finalized after the last meeting of the Task Team. The PCB Bureau members also stressed the following important details to be well described and reflected in their report to the PCB:

- The importance of promoting for multiyear contributions from UNAIDS key donors which would benefit UNAIDS in many aspects including predictability and planning and reduce currency fluctuations.
- Leveraging the GF and UNAIDS relationship.
- UNAIDS to try to optimize the use of the mechanisms of the GF on technical assistance set-asides funding.
- Develop a funding mechanism that supports country allocations to provide technical support to countries in the implementation of their GF grant.
- GF to act as guarantor including that GF guarantees funds to UNAIDS if not mobilized in the context of the support of UNAIDS in the overall GF processes at country level. Noting that countries will decide on how to use its technical support – value proposition of UNAIDS at country level.

- UNAIDS Executive Director to undertake a high-level discussion with the GF leadership to open this discussion.
- The PCB Bureau members also discussed the importance for the Secretariat to analyze
  the gap in core UBRAF funding versus the availability of the non-core funding and its
  distribution among Secretariat and Cosponsors and that non-core funding does not
  overshadow the importance of core funding.

Finally, the PCB Bureau members congratulated the co-chairs and the Task Team members for their commitment and excellent outcomes on the overall recommendations on UNAIDS funding situation (immediate and long term). They acknowledged that the recommendations proposed by the Task Team are concrete, realistic, and feasible and that they reflect well the urgency of the actions required to resolve UNAIDS funding situation and agreed that all these will be reflected in the report of the PCB Bureau to the PCB.

2 Discussion and agreement on the Bureau's outline of the report to the PCB on UNAIDS funding situation on the basis of the recommendations of the Informal Multistakeholder Task Team:

The Chair opened the discussion on the recommendations presented by the co-chair and requested the Bureau members to emphasize in their comments how the Task Team recommendations will be reflected in the final report of the Bureau to the PCB, based on the work of the Task Team on UNAIDS funding situation.

The Chair recalled that an outline of the Bureau report was prepared by the independent report writer (see **Annex 3**) and circulated by the Secretariat. He asked the Bureau members to provide their views, comments and input on this basis.

The PCB Chair and Bureau thanked the report writer in advance for his work on the draft report based on comments from the Bureau members reflecting the discussions and recommendations of the Task Team as presented by the co-chair as well as additional recommendations on enablers, including a thorough description of the current funding situation of UNAIDS, the impact and risks of currency fluctuations, and the core and non-core UBRAF funds and their distribution and use by the Secretariat. The Secretariat will then circulate the draft report for additional written comments and inputs by the PCB Bureau in accordance with the defined timeline (see **Annex 4**).

#### **AOB**

No other issues were raised.

[Annexes follow]

# Annex 1: PowerPoint presentation on the recommendations of the Informal Multistakeholder Task Team on UNAIDS funding situation, October 20, 2022

Informal Multistakeholder Task Team on Joint Programme funding situation

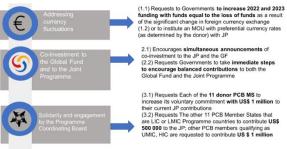
Task Team recommendations to the PCB Bureau

20 October 2022

# Recommendations to address the immediate funding crisis of the Joint Programme

(PCB decision point 6.7)

#### Task Team Recommendations Endorsed by the PCB Bureau



Recommendations for longerterm sustainable funding for the Joint Programme

(PCB decision point 6.8



- 1.1 Each of the 11 donor PCB Member State be requested to increase its voluntary commitment to the Joint Programme UBRAF.
- 1.2 For the other current 11 PCB Member States: the PCB members qualifying as LIC and LMIC are requested to contribute at least US\$ 500 000 to the Joint Programme, and those that are UMIC and HIC are requested to contribute at least US\$ 1 million to the Joint Programme. This commitment would be on a yearly ongoing basis.
- 1.3. Observer Member States are requested to contribute either US\$500 000 to the Joint Program as an LIC and LMIC, or those that are UMIC and HIC are requested to contribute at least US\$ 1 million to the Joint Programme. This commitment would be on a yearly ongoing basis.



- 2.1 Donors to UNAIDS to adopt the best practice utilized by other UN Funds and programs, to commit to **Multi Year Funding Agreements**, for the full Strategy period or the Global Fund replenishment cycle.
- 2.2 As an alternative option, donors to UNAIDS to commit to **Multi Year Funding**Agreements that align to the current Global Fund replenishment cycle (2022-25).
- 2.3 UNAIDS donors consider the use of a Memorandum of Understanding with preferential currency rates (as determined by the donor), or other steps to iron out the effects of currency fluctuations.
- 2.4 In addition to core funding, donors to open opportunities for specified core funding to UNAIDS.



- Leveraging the relationship of the JP with the Global Fund
- 3.1 Encouraging donors to use a "fair share" approach for their contribution to the Joint Programme

Request UNAIDS donors, including those that do not contribute to the Global Fund, to use a "fair share" approach, based on the calculation of their assessed contribution to WHO.

3.2 Ongoing commitment of the Technical Set Aside funding to UNAIDS

Encourage donor countries who commit funding to the Global Fund and have Technical Support Set Aside funding, to prioritise the Joint Programme for the commitment of that funding where the Joint Programme is best placed to provide the technical support.

3.3 Commitment of the equivalent of the Technical Set Aside funding to UNAIDS (as a guide this should be at least 5% of the Donor Investment to the Global Fund)

For donor countries who cannot redirect the Technical Set Aside, or do not have a Technical Set Aside function commit at least 5% of their annual contribution to Global Fund to UNAIDS.



- 3. Leveraging the relationship of the
- 3.4 The development of a new funding mechanism or arrangement between the Global Fund and UNAIDS providing \$31M USD per year to the UNAIDS Core Funding.
- 3.5 Develop a new funding mechanism or arrangement between the Global Fund and UNAIDS which directs funding to the Joint Programme for its support of Global Fund country allocation implementation.
- 3.6 The Global Fund to act as a guarantor for the Joint Programme budget. The development of a funding mechanism where the Global Fund acts as a guarantor to ensure that the Joint Programme is fully funded each year.
- 3.7 Accessing Country Grants

The Joint Programme is prioritised to received technical assistance in Country Grants.

\*Note: Recommendations 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7 will require a decision from the Global Fund Board. There has been no direct discussion with the Global Fund on these recommendations.



4. Cosponsor support

Some (but not all) Cosponsors have well developed funding mechanisms and large central budgets

4.1 Engage in joint resource mobilization for the Joint Programme

#### **Options for Long Term Sustainability: Enablers**



5. Ownership by the Board, Joint Programme and the Secretariat to reach USD \$210M for the remainder of the Strategy

The global AIDS response is under threat. Fully funding the Joint Programme UBRAF is critical for this strategy period to get the response back on track. Full engagement from the Board will be essential to secure funding

#### Options for Long Term Sustainability: Enablers



6. Active support for the implementation of the

Stand fully behind and implement the Joint Programme Resource Mobilization Strategy 2022-2026 and continue to develop the Secretariat and Joint Programme capacity to implement the Strategy.

Key to the long-term financial sustainability of UNAIDS is the successful implementation of the Joint Programme Resource Mobilisation Strategy 2022-2026.

The Strategy will expand the donor base to include private funding from the private sector, foundations and high net worth individuals.

#### Options for Long Term Sustainability: Enablers



7. Mobilize PHLIV, communities and civil society to strongly advocate to Governments, and other donors, to fully fund

#### **Options for Long Term Sustainability: Enablers**



 Call upon the Boards and Secretariats of the Global Fund and UNAIDS to urgently work together and resolve the situation of the underfunded UNAIDS work for the Global Fund.

Recognizing and supporting the efforts made so far, including the 2019 MOU between UNAIDS and the Global Fund.

# Annex 2: Sample letter co-signed by the UNAIDS Executive Director and the Task Team co-Chairs and addressed to the 22 current PCB member states.



Reference: EXO/2022/TT/'Country

Name Title Address

Date

Dear Ambassador,

We wish to thank you for your continued commitment to the global AIDS response and UNAIDS' work, and your engagement to address the alarming funding crisis of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

We refer to the 50th PCB meeting in June 2022, and the PCB decision point 6.7 requesting the PCB Bureau to establish an <a href="Informal Multistakeholder Task Team">Informal Multistakeholder Task Team</a> (Task Team) to provide recommendations to the Bureau on the immediate funding crisis for the UNAIDS Joint Programme. We would like to thank and acknowledge the excellent work and outcome of the Task Team, whose recommendations were endorsed as presented by the Co-chairs of the Task Team to the PCB Bureau on 25 July 2022, and subsequently endorsed by the Bureau. Having received the <a href="Informations in Ingent of the Ungency">Informations in Ingent of the Informations in Ingent of the Information Ingent of Information Ingent Information Informat

As engaged members of the UNAIDS PCB, we thank you and encourage you to show your commitment and duty of care to urgently close part of the current deficit which stands at US\$ 25 million to reach the minimum required UBRAF budgetary level of \$187 million, and US\$ 47 million below the approved budget of US\$ 210 million. The shortfall has a significant impact on the Joint Programme staffing footprint—the Secretariat has frozen all non mission-critical recruitments and 117 staff already left the organisation. The funding gap is significantly impacting the Joint Programme's work in support of national responses, particularly the implementation of Global Fund grants. In this context, the work of the Cosponsors is affected, as the Secretariat is unable to release the 2nd tranche of their funding for this year.

UNAIDS JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

UNHCR UNICEF WFP UNDP UNFPA UNODC UN WOMEN ILO UNESCO WHO WORLD BANK

Cc

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unaids.org

Focused on building solidarity and engagement within the UNAIDS PCB, the PCB Bureau's report specifically recommends concrete and immediate action by the UNAIDS PCB. Sustainable financing solutions in the medium term will be part of the Task Team discussions in the fall. For the immediate term however, Recommendation 3.1 of the report calls upon your government, as a donor PCB Member State, to provide an additional US\$1 million to your voluntary commitment to the Joint Programme UBRAF. Should we receive a positive response from all current UNAIDS PCB Member States, US\$18.5 million would be raised, thereby closing the

We also look forward to further discussing the other recommendations found in the report to be considered in the immediate future such as addressing the impact of the currency fluctuations on the Joint Programme's funding and promoting coinvestment in the Global Fund and the Joint Programme.

initial deficit to reach US\$187 million by 74%.

The PCB Bureau confirms the Task Team, represented by its Co-chairs, will play a key role in supporting the implementation of the recommendations for resolving the immediate funding crisis for the 2022- 2023 biennium.

The recently released annual Global AIDS Update sounds the alarm. The global HIV response is in danger. Progress on prevention has faltered, global shocks have exacerbated risks ahead, and resources for HIV are under threat. To save lives, be on track to end AIDS, and protect global health security, a dramatic acceleration in progress was needed. But instead of that vital dramatic acceleration, our data reveals that progress in reducing the number of people newly infected with HIV is in fact slowing down. At this critical moment in the AIDS response, partnership with your country is of great importance for the financial support you will provide as a sign of solidarity as a PCB Member State and your country's strong commitment to end AIDS by 2030.

Yours sincerely,

Winnie Byanyima Executive Director, UNAIDS Under Secretary-General, United Nations Dr Mohamed Chakroun Task Team Co-chair, Tunisia Ms Julia Martin Task Team Co-chair, USA

# Annex 3: Draft outline of the final report to the PCB Bureau: UNAIDS Multistakeholder Task Team on the UNAIDS Funding Situation

## UNAIDS Multistakeholder Task Team on the UNAIDS Funding Situation Final report to PCB Bureau Draft outline

#### **Executive summary**

[to focus specifically on recommendations and next steps]

#### I. Introduction

- Recalling decisions 6.7 and 6.8 of the 50<sup>th</sup> PCB
- Segmentation of recommendations immediate/short-term and longer-term/sustainable options
- Purpose of report: the PCB Bureau will report to the PCB in response to the decisions
  of the 50<sup>th</sup> PCB meeting on UNAIDS funding situation based on the recommendations
  of the Informal Multistakeholder Task Team

## II. Update on UNAIDS funding situation

[to come based on updated financial figures provided, including impact of continued currency fluctuations and latest estimate of funding gap]

#### III. The work of the Task Team

- Review of Terms of Reference and selection of TT members
- Election of Co-chairs Tunisia and USA
- Four virtual meetings initial focus on immediate funding gap, then analysis of sustainable funding options
- Initial report to PCB Bureau on options for addressing immediate funding gap

## IV. Recommendations to address immediate funding crisis

[this section will review each recommendation in turn and describe steps taken to implement the recommendation]

- Address the impact of currency fluctuations
   [describe communication sent to PCB stakeholders]
- Promote co-investment in the Global Fund and Joint Programme
   [note progress made in having donors link UNAIDS and GFATM funding during replenishment; advocacy to donors for balanced contributions; analyses comparing individual donors' core contributions to UNAIDS and GFATM and comparing UNAIDS contributions with assessed share of WHO funding]
- Build solidarity and engagement by PCB [note letters to PCB members]
- V. Recommendations to address longer-term sustainability [to come based on outcomes of October TT meeting]

### VI. Conclusion

[Guidance will be needed here on key messaging for conclusion – these key messages will also appear in the Executive Summary]

# Annex 4: Tentative timeline for the finalization of the Report of the PCB Bureau

Tentative timeline for the finalization of the Report of the PCB Bureau on UNAIDS funding situation (immediate and sustainable) based on the recommendations of the informal Multistakeholder Task Team

Agenda item 6 at the 51st PCB meeting, 13-16 December 2022 in Chang Mai, Thailand

Deliverable/related event	Timeline
First draft outline of the Report	Following the meeting of the PCB
·	Bureau on Tuesday 11 October 2022
Fourth Meeting of the Informal Task Team	Thursday 13 October 2022
Draft summary report of the fourth meeting of the Informal Task Team	Friday 14 October 2022
Draft annotated outline of the report	Monday 17 October 2022
Bureau meeting with the co-chairs of the Task	Thursday 20 October 2022
Team to discuss the recommendations of the	
Task Team and the report of the Bureau	
First Draft of the report of the Bureau	Wednesday 26 October 2022
Fifth meeting of the Informal Task Team	Tuesday 1 November 2022
Strategic Funding Dialogue (SFD)	Thursday 3 November 2022
Second draft report of the Bureau	Friday 4 November 2022
Bureau meeting to finalize the report further to the SFD	Monday 7 November 2022
Final report submitted to the Bureau for final clearance	Monday 15 November 2022
Final report posted online	Thursday 24 November 2022