

## UNAIDS PCB Bureau meeting

DATE: 19 May 2022

TIME: 13h00-14h00 (Geneva time)

VENUE: Virtual

### **PARTICIPANTS:**

**PCB Bureau:** H.E. Mr Rongvudhi Virabutr, Dr Preecha Premree, Dr Walaiporn Patcharanarumol, Dr Thaksaphon Thammarangsi, Dr Sairat Noknoy, Ms Parichart Chantcharas, Mr Natee Vichitsorasatra, and Dr Cha-aim Pachanee representing the PCB Chair (Thailand); Mr Binod Mahanty representing the PCB Vice-Chair (Germany); Dr Peace Mutuma representing the PCB Rapporteur (Kenya); Dr Chewe Luo and Ms Bettina T. Schunter representing the Chair of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations; and Ms Dinah Bons representing the PCB NGO Delegation.

**UNAIDS Secretariat:** 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 DRAFT AGENDA**

- 1. 51<sup>st</sup> PCB meeting:** *The PCB Bureau discussed the option of holding the 51<sup>st</sup> meeting of the PCB in Thailand.*
- 2. Report of the 49<sup>th</sup> PCB meeting:** *The PCB Bureau discussed the requested changes received from one member on the report of the 49<sup>th</sup> PCB meeting.*
- 3. Any other business**

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### **Summary**

The PCB Chair welcomed participants to the meeting and thanked them for their understanding about the need to postpone the meeting due to an unexpected engagement.

#### **1. 51<sup>st</sup> PCB meeting**

The PCB Chair recalled that, at the 49<sup>th</sup> PCB meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health of Thailand had announced Thailand's interest in hosting a PCB meeting in Thailand.

The PCB Chair had reiterated this interest at the previous [Bureau meeting held on 20 April 2022](#). The Chair recalled that, at that Bureau meeting, the Secretariat had agreed to review the necessary steps for such a proposal with the PCB legal counsel:

- If the Bureau agrees to propose that the 51<sup>st</sup> PCB meeting is held in Thailand, it shall revise the agenda for the 50<sup>th</sup> PCB meeting to include an agenda item to discuss this proposal.
- The PCB Bureau would submit a paper regarding this proposal for consideration and decision making by the PCB at the 50<sup>th</sup> PCB meeting.

A draft paper related to this proposal and a revised annotated agenda had been circulated to the PCB Bureau members ahead of the Bureau's discussion. The Chair requested the Secretariat provide an overview of the papers as follows:

PCB meetings have been held outside of Geneva on a number of occasions, including in Kenya, Zambia, Jamaica, Portugal, Brazil, Thailand, and India. At the 21<sup>st</sup> PCB meeting, the PCB took the following decisions on criteria that should be used in consideration for holding meetings outside of Geneva:

- Regional rotation
- Overall cost and cost-sharing
- Local expertise
- Local facilities
- No travel restrictions
- Relevance to the theme
- Added value

The proposal to hold the 51<sup>st</sup> PCB meeting in Thailand fulfils the criteria as set out by the PCB for holding meetings outside of Geneva:

- A PCB meeting/field visit to the Asian region is in line with the historical regional balance of meetings.
- Thailand, in its role as PCB Chair, plans to support the cost effectiveness of the meeting itself. Additional information on costing is provided below.
- Thailand has local facilities available and no travel restrictions for people living with HIV.
- Thailand has been a leader in the AIDS response with its particular emphasis on community-led responses, protecting key populations and people living with HIV, and tackling stigma and discrimination. A PCB meeting in Thailand will benefit from the expertise and local leadership on these areas, providing significant added value to the discussions at the PCB meeting.
- In addition to the usual PCB meeting, this could also serve as an opportunity to invite PCB members to attend a field visit of programmes in Thailand in the days ahead of the PCB. This was also done the last time Thailand hosted the PCB and it was perceived very positively by the PCB members because it gave insight into innovative programming in the AIDS response that was subsequently relevant to the Board's discussion. A field visit would be planned back-to-back with the PCB meeting.

The draft paper noted that a hybrid or fully in-person meeting could be foreseen to take place in Thailand in accordance with the modalities and procedures adopted by the PCB in 2022. The paper included an initial costing estimate. A PCB meeting in Geneva typically costs around USD \$250,000. Past experience indicated that meetings held outside of Geneva cost roughly double that amount (USD \$500,000).

Additional budgetary information would be added to the paper circulated to the Bureau to support the PCB's consideration of this request. The Secretariat noted that costing is largely dependent upon venue, size of the meeting, and travel costs. Certain costs remain the same for all PCB meetings, including translation of documents and interpretation. The Secretariat had costed out a range of scenarios for the 51<sup>st</sup> PCB meeting, including:

- A fully in-person meeting in Bangkok, which totals the USD \$500,000
- A hybrid meeting in Bangkok, which totals about USD \$453,000.
- A fully in-person meeting in Geneva, which totals about USD \$237,000.
- A hybrid meeting in Geneva, which totals about USD \$217,000.
- A fully virtual meeting, which totals about USD \$149,000.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the summary of the paper and a representative of the Chair reaffirmed Thailand's interest in hosting the PCB meeting. The representative noted that Thailand was fully prepared to support the additional costs of a meeting held outside of Geneva and looked forward to welcoming the PCB to Thailand in December.

PCB Bureau members thanked the government of Thailand for the proposal and their financial commitment to facilitate the 51<sup>st</sup> PCB meeting to be held on 13-16 December 2022 in Thailand. Members stressed the added value of providing PCB members with firsthand experience of Thailand's leadership and innovation in key areas of the HIV response, in particular vis-à-vis community-led responses and tackling stigma and discrimination. Members made suggestions to the draft PCB paper to support the clarity regarding the budgetary pieces and the background information for the proposal. Members recognized the additional cost implications for delegations and looked forward to a discussion on this proposal with the wider PCB at the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> PCB meeting to be held on 21-24 June 2022.

Further to the meeting, the PCB Bureau agreed to issue a revised meeting agenda for the 50<sup>th</sup> PCB meeting, incorporating the agenda item on the proposal to hold the 51<sup>st</sup> PCB meeting in Thailand, and agreed to issue a paper on this proposal for consideration by the wider PCB.

## **2. Report of the 49<sup>th</sup> PCB meeting**

The Chair recalled that the PCB Bureau had approved the [report of the 49<sup>th</sup> PCB meeting](#) and it had subsequently been posted on the PCB webpage in both English and French. On 28 April 2022, the Secretariat had received and transmitted to the Chair comments on paragraph 139 from one Member on the Report of the 49<sup>th</sup> PCB meeting. In order to better understand the rationale for the suggestion, the Chair had a brief discussion with the Member in question. Further to that discussion, the Chair proposed a series of revisions for the consideration of the PCB Bureau. All revisions were limited to paragraph 139, regarding the discussion on the adoption of the decision points related to agenda item 1.4, *Report by the NGO Delegation*. The Chair reiterated that, in considering the request from the member, it was the Bureau's responsibility to ensure that the report is a balanced and fair summary of the content of the meeting and requested that Bureau members consider accommodating the changes in the spirit of achieving consensus decisionmaking at the upcoming PCB meeting.

PCB Bureau members thanked the Chair for the proposal and agreed to consider options for simplifying and clarifying the language proposed via email. Further to the meeting, the PCB Bureau agreed on revised language and issued a revised version of the paper on this basis.

### 3. AOB

The PCB Chair noted that the Bureau may have one additional meeting ahead of the 50<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PCB to meet with the UNAIDS Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee (IEOAC).

The PCB NGO Delegation representative raised that there would be an incoming delegate in June 2022 due to an unexpected vacancy in the Latin America and the Caribbean region and requested clarification on how this would be communicated to the PCB. The Secretariat noted that, the process for selecting NGO Delegates was under the remit of the Delegation itself, but that, per the PCB Modus Operandi, these nominees are confirmed by the PCB at each December meeting. In view of this off-cycle addition, the Secretariat agreed to discuss with Legal Counsel and revert.

Further to the meeting, Legal Counsel confirmed that the decision would appropriately be taken ahead of the PCB meeting to permit the full NGO Delegation to attend. The PCB Bureau subsequently finalized a draft paper on this basis and agreed to submit it for intersessional decision making by the PCB.

No additional business was raised, and the Chair closed the meeting.