



UNAIDS PCB Bureau meeting

DATE: 20 April 2022

TIME: 13h00-15h30 (Geneva time)

VENUE: Virtual

PARTICIPANTS:

PCB Bureau: H.E. Mr Rongvudhi Virabutr, Dr Preecha Prempre, 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 Paul Zubeil 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 Mr Jumoke Patrick 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. Discussion on Modalities of the 50th PCB meeting:

The PCB Bureau discussed the modalities (virtual, hybrid or in-person) for the 50th PCB meeting.

2. Update, Regular Segment at the upcoming 50th meeting of the PCB

The Bureau received brief updates on key items of the regular segment at the upcoming Board meeting.

- Agenda item 1.2: Report of the Previous Meeting
- Agenda item 1.3 & 3: Report by the Executive Director and Leadership in the AIDS Response
- Agenda item 1.4: Report by the Chair of the CCO
- Agenda item 2: Follow-up to the thematic segment from the 49th PCB meeting

- Agenda item 4.1: 2016-2021 UBRAF Performance Reporting
- Agenda item 4.2: 2016-2021 UBRAF Financial Reports
- Agenda item 5: Indicators, milestones, targets and data sources for the 2022-2026 UBRAF and the 2022-2023 Workplan and Budget
- Agenda item 6: Update on Strategic Human Resources Management Issues
- Agenda item 7: Statement by the Representative of the UNAIDS Secretariat Staff Association
- Agenda item 8: Independent Organizational Oversight Reports
- Agenda item 9: Thematic Segment at the upcoming PCB meeting: Positive Learning: Harnessing the power of education to end HIV-related stigma and discrimination and empower young people living with HIV

3. Any other business

Summary of the Meeting

The PCB Chair welcomed participants to the PCB Bureau meeting to prepare the 50th PCB meeting, to be held 21-24 June 2022. The focus of the meeting was to provide Bureau members with an update on the preparations of the PCB50 agenda items by relevant focal points and, in accordance with the [intersessional paper on the modalities and procedures for the 2022 PCB meetings](#), for the Bureau to make a final determination on the modalities of the upcoming 50th PCB meeting.

1. Discussion on Modalities of the 50th PCB meeting

The PCB Chair recalled the decision (adopted intersessionally by the PCB on [the modalities and procedures for the 2022 PCB meetings](#)) that the PCB “*agreed that the PCB Bureau will determine no later than 60 days ahead of the meeting if the 50th meeting of the PCB will be virtual, hybrid or in-person; and that if the meeting will be held virtually or as a hybrid meeting, it will exceptionally include an additional day and be held on 21-24 June 2022.*” Accordingly, the PCB Bureau was expected to make a final decision on the modalities ahead of the formal invitations to be sent shortly to PCB stakeholders.

The Chair invited the Secretariat to provide brief logistical information for the Bureau to consider in their decision making as follows:

- Ongoing construction at both the Palais and the WHO had led to room capacity reductions. In the event that the PCB Bureau decided to go forward with a fully in-person meeting, the PCB would likely need to be held in an external space, which would have a cost component to consider.

- In the event of a hybrid meeting, where in-person participation is limited, the meeting would be held at WHO in a series of their new modular spaces in a similar set-up to the hybrid Executive Board meeting, which had taken place in this space in January this year. As outlined in the modalities paper, the participation for a hybrid meeting is limited (for in-person) to 2 people per Member State delegation, 2 people for each of the 11 cosponsors, and the NGO Delegation (2 per seat).
- In the event of an in-person or a hybrid meeting, the following health and safety measures instituted by the World Health Organization would apply (though these were subject to change depending upon the evolution of the health situation):
 - o In-person participants would be required to wear a mask.
 - o A valid vaccination pass is required for entry to the WHO building.
 - o People are requested to do self-testing at home each day of the meeting. This would be an honor system and the cost would be incurred by the participants themselves. Those who receive a positive test would be requested to report to WHO medical services. The Secretariat clarified that COVID self-tests from any country would be accepted.
- In the event of a hybrid meeting, Secretariat and Joint Programme presenters, thematic segment speakers and the UNAIDS Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee members would also be invited to be in the room, allowing for all presenters to be physically present.
- In the event of a virtual meeting, the modalities and procedures used over the past two years would be utilized.

Additional information on the logistical requirements for a hybrid meeting would be included in the Information Note for the meeting and would be updated as the situation evolves. The Secretariat also confirmed that PCB members could decide to intervene either virtually or via their in-person participation and that the modalities paper had foreseen that the speakers list would alternate between online and in-person membership speaker requests to support equal participation.

PCB Bureau members thanked the Chair and the Secretariat for the additional context to support their discussion on the options outlined. The members agreed by consensus that, in view of the continued health concerns as well as the additional cost to be incurred by a fully in-person meeting, the 50th meeting of the PCB should be held as a hybrid meeting from 21-24 June 2022 in accordance with the [modalities and procedures](#) adopted by the PCB intersessionally.

Further to the agreement of the PCB Bureau, invitations to the 50th PCB meeting on the basis of a hybrid meeting would be circulated to PCB stakeholders.

2. Update, Regular Segment at the 50th PCB meeting (21-24 June 2022)

Relevant focal points provided the updates on the preparation of the agenda items as follows:

Agenda item 1.2: Report of the Previous Meeting

- The report of the previous meeting is a summary of the presentations and discussions held. As is practice, it is cleared by the PCB Bureau prior to being posted online.
- As agreed in the modalities and procedures for virtual PCB meetings, this report includes a summary of all interventions made in plenary as well as written statements submitted through the secure platform as agreed in the intersessional paper on modalities for virtual PCB meetings. The paper is not intended to be a verbatim record of the meeting.

- This paper was reviewed by the PCB Bureau in February and was posted on the PCB50 webpage in both English and French.
- This agenda item would be the subject of a pre-meeting session held on Tuesday, 14 June 2022.

Agenda item 1.3 & 3: Report of the Executive Director and Leadership in the AIDS response:

- The report of the Executive Director is expected to focus on the key achievements in the AIDS response over the last six months as well as reporting back on key processes ongoing at UNAIDS, including the Secretariat alignment as well as the situation of the HIV response in Ukraine.
- As is practice, an outline of the report will be posted in advance of the meeting. The report of the Executive Director in its entirety will be posted following delivery at the PCB meeting.
- For the Leadership in the AIDS Response agenda item, the Executive Director invites a high-level speaker to provide a statement. The Executive Director is in the process of selecting a speaker.

PCB Bureau members recalled their discussion and agreement at the [Bureau meeting held on 10 March 2022](#) that the Report of the Executive Director and the Report by the Chair of the CCO would be expected to cover the situation for people living with and affected by HIV in Ukraine and the actions, work and support of the Joint Programme.

Finally, Bureau members also stressed the importance of using this PCB to raise awareness to the 2022 Global Fund Replenishment and the funding of the 2022-2026 UBRAF.

Agenda item 1.4: Report by the Chair of the CCO

- The Chair of the CCO provided the update. The report, on behalf of all the cosponsoring organizations, is expected to be delivered by the Executive Director of UNICEF, Catherine Russell.
- The report will focus on the implementation of the Global AIDS Strategy, the inequalities focus and its alignment to the SDGs, the outcomes of the recent Joint Programme retreat as well as the work of the Joint Programme to support people living with HIV in Ukraine and other conflict settings.
- The next meeting of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations would be held in May and would also inform the report.
- The report by the Chair of the CCO would be considered also under the pre-meeting session on Tuesday, 14 June 2022.

Agenda item 2: Follow-up to the Thematic Segment from the 49th PCB meeting:

- The thematic segment at the 49th PCB meeting was titled “*what does the regional and country level data tell us, are we listening, and how can we better leverage that data and related technology to meet our 2025 and 2030 goals?*”
- The report, which was shared with the PCB Bureau ahead of the meeting, is a summary of the discussions and presentations during the session.
- The report is drafted by an independent report writer and submitted to the PCB Bureau for review and clearance.

- The Follow-up to the Thematic Segment would be considered also under the pre-meeting session held on Tuesday, 14 June 2022.

The PCB Bureau agreed to provide written feedback on the report and proposed decision points following the Bureau meeting.

Agenda item 4.1: 2016-2021 UBRAF Performance Reporting

- Marie-Odile Emond, Senior Advisor, PFA, UNAIDS Secretariat provided the update on the agenda item.
- The 2022-2021 Performance Monitoring Report is a jointly developed multisectoral results package of four complementary documents that ensures holistic and granular reporting of Joint Programme collective and individual results at global, regional and country levels including a quality assurance review by senior management. The PMR consists of four reports:
 - Executive Summary
 - Regional and Country Report
 - Strategy Results Area and Indicator report
 - Organizational Report
- The 2022-2021 Performance Monitoring report is the last one for the UBRAF 2016-2021. Though it focuses on 2020-2021, it will also show trends for indicators from 2016 and include high level reflections on progress and lessons learned during the whole cycle.
- As a unique joint PMR for 12 entities, it is a complex process. Its development is in good progress with ongoing data compilation/validation, analysis, writing and quality assurance review. It will be submitted to the PCB by end of May.
- Further improvements in the PMR are made to respond to PCB recommendations as follows:
 - Shorter narrative but clearer and enhanced indicators score card reporting (for each the strategy results areas and Secretariat)
 - Higher quality Executive Summary
 - Enhanced regional reports but less individual country reports (which will feature on the Results & Transparency Portal in any case)
 - Clearer budget and expenditure data presentation
 - UNAIDS contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Analysis of challenges and gaps and reflections on lessons learned
- The report will highlight significant achievements thanks for the fast-track approach UNAIDS led through its 2016-21 UBRAF especially in:
 - Comprehensive, people-centred and inclusive HIV services including outreach to those left behind.
 - Facilitating adoption of innovations and new tools in programme delivery
 - Removal of societal and legal impediments to an enabling environment for HIV services.
 - Sustainable financing and resilient health and social protection systems
 - Response to COVID-19 in the context of HIV and lessons learned for broader pandemic preparedness and response
 - Strategic partnerships and catalytical contribution to leveraging and optimizing investments through advocacy, data for impact, country coordination and national capacity development as well as the transition to shaping a new ambitious world vision to reducing HIV-related inequalities through the adoption of the new Global AIDS Strategy and Political Declaration
- However, despite sustained efforts, progress has plateaued as it can be clearly seen that the impact of a not fully funded 2016-2021 UBRAF in recent years which has

hampered the Joint Programme's capacities to fully deliver compounded by the impact of COVID-19 on national AIDs response and the Joint Programme.

- The Performance Monitoring Reports would be considered also under the pre-meeting session held on Thursday, 16 June 2022.

Agenda item 4.2: 2016-2021 UBRAF Financial Reports-

- George Farhat, Director, Planning, Finance and Accountability (PFA), UNAIDS Secretariat, provided the update on the agenda item.
- Two financial reports will be presented to the PCB as per established practice: firstly, a financial report and audited financial statements for 2021; and secondly, a financial management update for 2022-2023 covering the period 1 January 2022 until 31 March 2022.
- The Financial Statements, Accounting Policies, and Notes to the Financial Statements have been prepared in compliance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) for the tenth year and in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the World Health Organization (WHO). These standards enhance transparency, increase accountability and improve the financial reporting of UNAIDS.
- For the 3rd year, a Statement of Internal Control (SIC) is included in the Audited Financial Statements.
- UNAIDS expects to receive an unmodified audit opinion by the external Auditors.
- UNAIDS' financial situation has been relatively stable during 2021. Core income totaling US\$ 171.4 million mobilized in 2021 compared to US\$ 197 million mobilized in 2020. This amounts to US\$ 15.6 million below the target of US\$ 187 million.
- Total core expenditures (expenses and encumbrances) amounted to US\$ 185 million compared to US\$ 183.4 million in 2020.
- The net fund balance on 31 December 2021 stood at US\$ 101 million (US\$ 112 million end of 2020) a decrease of US\$ 11 million. This is US\$ 6 million below the PCB approved minimum level of US\$ 107 million approved in 2015. The net fund balance in 2021 enabled the Secretariat to fund the 2022 Cosponsors core allocation (including the country envelopes) as per the approved budget.
- Thus far in 2022, US\$ 42.5 million has been recorded as core income. It is estimated that US\$175 million core will be raised in 2022. This would constitute US\$ 12 million below the base resource mobilization target of US\$ 187 million and US\$ 35 million below approved budget of US\$ 210 million.
- The Financial Reports would be considered also under the pre-meeting session held on Thursday, 16 June 2022.

Agenda item 5: Indicators, milestones, targets and data sources for the 2022-2026 UBRAF and the 2022-2023 Workplan and Budget

- Marie-Odile Emond, Senior Advisor, PFA, UNAIDS Secretariat provided the update on the agenda item.
- Past PCB decisions on UBRAF 2022-2026 indicators (December 2021 PCB) included:
 - o 6.1 Takes note of the annex of the 2022-2026 Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework outputs and indicators (UNAIDS/PCB (49)/21.26) and, with consideration of PCB comments, looks forward to receiving the complete indicator matrix at the 50th PCB meeting in June 2022;
 - o 6.3 Requests the Joint Programme to finalize the indicators, milestones, targets, and data sources for the 2022-2023 Workplan aligned with the core budget base of US\$187 million up to the threshold of US\$210 million annually, for consideration by the Programme Coordinating Board in June 2022, noting that

the Cosponsors and Secretariat will be accountable for delivering against the respective indicators, milestones, and targets within corresponding results areas;

- To meet this PCB request and further to its feedback at its December 2021 meeting, the complete UBRAF 2022-2026 Indicator matrix (for the Joint Programme's outcomes and specific outputs for the 10 results areas as well as the Secretariat's 5 functions) is being developed through intense internal consultation across the Joint Programme using a logical approach built on past experience, data collection and validation and with, as much as possible, synergies with existing/planned data sources such as the Global AIDS Monitoring system.
- The overall approach and draft matrix will be shared shortly with the earlier established UBRAF Working Group for its guidance.
- Building on the PCB earlier feedback, UNAIDS aims to demonstrate high level of accountability taking into account UNAIDS structure as a Joint Programme with 12 entities, the multisectoral nature of our work and the highlight uncertain global and funding environment.
- A clear logical approach has been defined and is used with all efforts are made to ensure indicators are meaningful and SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound).
- As presented to the PCB in Dec 2020, the set of indicators follow an approach measuring the Joint Programme's work but with better consistency and, in addition, linkages to the global AIDS response's impact measured by the Global AIDS Monitoring system (including the National Commitments and Policy Instrument).
- This considered to be an exercise which is technical in nature, with several new programmatic areas that UNAIDS aims to shape but with limited reference for reliable measurement and areas for which new global AIDS guidance will further evolve in the coming years due to new scientific developments and rapidly changing contexts.
- A major challenge is the highly uncertain global environment with the impact of COVID19 still seen across many national AID responses including on global AIDS monitoring, risk of economic and ODA impact due to the recent conflict context in Europe and cumulative impact of underfunded UBRAF in recent years with sharp funding cuts faced in 2021 which have led to decreasing capacities across the Joint Programme.
- The Indicators would be also considered under the pre-meeting session held on Thursday, 16 June 2022.

Agenda item 6: Update on Strategic Human Resources Management Issues

- Alison Holmes, Director, People Management, UNAIDS Secretariat, provided the update on the agenda item.
- The Update on Strategic Human Resources Management Issues provides an update on related activities undertaken by the UNAIDS Secretariat during the reporting period April 2021 to March 2022. It is an annual report, first requested by the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) at its 30th meeting in June 2012.
- Three conference room papers will be made available to the PCB: (i) the UNAIDS People Strategy 2022-2026, (ii) the 2021 report on UNAIDS administration of justice cases and (iii) the report on disciplinary and other corrective action taken in 2021.
- The UNAIDS Secretariat is in transition with ongoing alignment and culture transformation. The UNAIDS People Strategy 2022-2026 will build on these transitional processes and support the implementation of the 2021-2026 Global AIDS Strategy and the 2022-2026 UBRAF. The People Strategy has been developed through a consultative process across

the organization, including a strong relationship with the UNAIDS Secretariat Staff Association (USSA). Committed to a strong people focus, this new UNAIDS Secretariat People Strategy outlines the vision, strategic priorities and crosscutting drivers for the Department and the Secretariat at large for the period 2022 to 2026. Its forward-looking agenda sets out how to support staff through the current transition and beyond to enable UNAIDS people to give their best each and every day and achieve our goal of ending AIDS by 2030. The People Strategy is informed by, and takes forward the commitments of, the Management Action Plan that are either ongoing ones or yet to be finalized.

- Enhancing policy awareness, accountability and compliance among UNAIDS staff members is a priority including through continuing to engage with staff on unpacking policy provisions and socializing common definitions. An internal #Respect campaign was launched in September 2021 which builds on six scenarios to raise awareness about examples of harassment, sexual harassment and discrimination. This multi-year campaign aims to build a solid understanding as to what constitutes abusive conduct and how to address it.
- Regular meetings between the Department's Director and USSA representatives are being held to address any issues. The #Respect campaign is just one example of this close collaboration. The campaign has been jointly designed and implemented by colleagues from the People Management Department, Culture Transformation, Internal Communications and the USSA.
- In March 2022, the new UNAIDS Recruitment Policy and Procedures and the Policy on the Recruitment of staff on temporary appointments of up to 12 months were issued, along with Guidelines for Recruitment Administrators, containing guidance for staff administering recruitment processes and relevant standard operating procedures. The policy includes provisions for decentralizing selection processes and places the selection process for locally recruited staff members in Regional Support Teams (RST) and UNAIDS Country Offices under the responsibility of the respective RST Director.
- The Strategic Human Resources Management Issues would be considered also under the pre-meeting session held on Tuesday, 14 June 2022.

Agenda item 7: Statement by the Representative of the UNAIDS Secretariat Staff Association

- Tina Boonto, Chair of the UNAIDS Secretariat Staff Association, a.i., provided the update on the agenda item.
- The USSA Executive Committee presents its statement to the PCB on behalf of the staff association of UNAIDS, which represent the views of over 700 staff members of UNAIDS Secretariat. The statement highlights staff concerns as well as progress made on the current systemic issues identified over the reporting period (May 2020 – present) that impacts the ability of staff to deliver on our mandate to serve people living with HIV and key populations.
- The statement will highlight the following key areas and issues of concerns and also point to opportunities for further collaboration:
 1. Staff Health and Wellbeing
 2. Respectful working environment
 3. Alignment
 4. Staff-Management Relationship and Collaboration
- The COVID-19 pandemic; extra-ordinary workload to deliver new global strategy, HLM, UBRAF; and organization-wide restructuring (all happening simultaneously) have posed unprecedented challenges to the health and wellbeing of UNAIDS staff members. While

UNAIDS has offered counselling support for staff, this however remains insufficient and requires expansion of diverse options for psychosocial support for all members of the workforce, particularly at country and regional levels.

- The new policy: “Preventing and Addressing Abusive Conduct: Policy and Procedures Concerning Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Abuse of Authority, was launched in March 2020, more work is needed to provide more information on reporting and redress channels that staff members can utilize.
- The substantive organization-wide restructuring of UNAIDS Secretariat has occupied time and attention of staff members in this last two years and created anxiety and concerns for many staff members about job security. Mid-way into the alignment process, funding cuts from key donors significantly reduced the final staffing numbers at the end of the design phase. Staff appreciated the EXD’s decision to offer two rounds of SMA, for which 103 staff members applied. 105 positions were abolished, but 85 positions were put in a Compendium, opened for eligible staff to apply for reassignment. Before the alignment, UNAIDS Secretariat had 723 staff members. At the end of the alignment process, the final number is expected to be 653.
- USSA highlights the following areas of concerns:
 - a. Consultation process left staff feeling that their inputs and contributions were not considered.
 - b. The number of positions outside the compendium made available to external candidates
 - c. Continued hiring and recruitment during alignment process (hiring freeze not adhered to) and the number of direct appointments without competitive process
 - d. Sub-optimal transparency, accountability mechanism to ensure fairness and equal opportunity for staff
 - e. The need to ensure timely support to staff who are impacted by post abolishment (career development, skills building, etc.)
- USSA is continuing to voice staff concerns and request management to ensure maximum support to staff in the implementation of the alignment.
- The USSA would like to highlight their positive relationship and sincere thanks for the work of the Human Resources Department to support staff through the alignment.
- Staff-Management relationship requires improvement – the stress all staff experienced in this last two years and the anxiety from the alignment change process has taken a toll on many of the staff at UNAIDS. USSA is working with Management to strengthen meaningful consultation and increase dialogue, including exploring the review and revision of the USSA & Management Agreement (from 2010) to ensure that policies and decisions that impact staff working conditions and well-being are developed and implemented with staff input and engagement.
- The statement by the Chair of the USSA would be considered also under the pre-meeting session held on Tuesday, 14 June 2022.

Agenda item 8: Independent Organizational Oversight Reports:

- George Farhat, Director, Planning, Finance and Accountability (PFA), UNAIDS Secretariat, Kara Nottingham, Ethics Officer, UNAIDS Secretariat, and Morten Ussing, Director, Governance, UNAIDS Secretariat provided the update on the agenda item.
- The Organizational Oversight Reports agenda item includes the following reports:
 - o Report of the External Auditor
 - o Report of the Internal Auditor
 - o Report of the UNAIDS Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee

- Management Response to the Organizational Oversight Reports

Internal and External Auditors Reports:

- The unmodified reports of the External and Internal Auditors will be submitted to the PCB for consideration.

Ethics Report:

- The report is submitted in accordance with the decision of the 44th Session of the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB), whereby the PCB requested that the Executive Director ensure that the Secretariat Ethics function at the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) conform to standards of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). This included establishing a new independent Ethics Office and ensuring that the Ethics Office submit an annual report, unchanged by management, to the PCB, as well as inclusion of a stand-alone agenda item at the PCB covering ethics.
- This is the second report submitted to the PCB on the ethics function at UNAIDS. The report covers the 2021 reporting period and will review the following areas: (i) background information (ii) establishment of a new independent Ethics Office; (iii) functioning of the Ethics Office and activities in the areas of confidential advisory services; ensuring the highest standards of conduct; protection from retaliation; preventing sexual exploitation and abuse; the declaration of interest program; training outreach and communications; ensuring policy coherence; participation in the Ethics Multilateral Network; and (iv) additional issues and identified priorities for the future.
- The report was prepared by the new Head of the Ethics Office who started in the position on 1 March 2022. It has been unchanged by management. Consultations were made as required, and inputs were received as necessary from People Management and the former acting interim Senior Ethics Officer at UNAIDS.
- A new independent Ethics Office has been established and the recruitment of the new Head of the Ethics Office has been completed. With regard to the functioning of the Ethics Office, the provision of confidential ethics advice decreased with 74 total requests for advice received in 2021, compared to a total of 124 requests for advice received in 2020.
- With regard to addressing and reporting alleged misconduct, a new World Health Organization (“WHO”) Policy on Preventing and Addressing Abusive Conduct, including harassment, sexual harassment, discrimination, and abuse of authority, was released in March 2021 and is applicable at UNAIDS. The Integrity Hotline service is still in use, which allows any party, internal or external, to report allegations of misconduct or other issues involving UNAIDS. In 2021 the external service provider for the hotline was changed to a different external company. The Ethics Office continues to administer the WHO Whistleblowing and Protection Against Retaliation Policy, as adapted to UNAIDS. There were no formal requests for protection against retaliation filed with the Ethics Office in 2021. Increasing the trust and confidence of staff members in the mechanisms in place to protect them from retaliation is identified as a key priority.
- In December 2021 the former WHO Policy on Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse was placed in abeyance, and a new Policy Directive on Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse was issued. This Policy Directive reiterates the standards in ensuring prevention and aligns with the provisions of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Bulletin on “Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse” (ST/SGB/2003/13). The eligibility criteria for financial disclosures and participation

in the declaration of interest program has increased, resulting in 440 eligible staff completing the declaration of interest form at a 96% completion rate in 2021 for the 2020 reporting year, compared to 193 staff members in the previous year. A total of 11 potential conflicts of interest were identified and resolved.

- Ethics awareness and training activities took place, including in relation to the promotion of the new Policy on Preventing and Addressing Abusive Conduct in collaboration with other stakeholders and departments throughout the Organization. Additional trainings will be resumed in the future, to enhance awareness of ethics standards and principles. With regard to policy coherence and ensuring consistent application of the rules, in 2021 the Ethics Office participated in Alignment Task Team Meetings, to advise on ethics considerations in relation to the alignment restructuring.
- Key priorities identified going forward include enhancing the promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion as a core UNAIDS value, in an effort to further ensure a safe and respectful work environment and reduce instances of misconduct. Efforts are also needed to simplify communications materials and policies related to ethics, to make it easier for staff members and partners to retrieve essential information and to ensure compliance with the regulatory framework. Enhanced collaboration is also envisioned with relevant departments in an effort to encourage informal dispute resolution

Report of the IEOAC:

- The IEOAC reiterated their thanks and compliments to the PCB Bureau for their engagement during their orientation.
- The IEOAC expects to meet at least twice more prior to the June PCB meeting – once at the end of April and once at the end of May. During these meetings, they will develop ways of working, finalizing their workplan, and reviewing the 2022 submissions to the PCB.
- They are having an ongoing discussion about their first report and would expect to deliver that report for publication by the beginning of June, once they have had a chance to review the other relevant reports.
- They would also be interested in meeting again with the PCB Bureau ahead of the June meeting.

Management Response to the Organizational Oversight Reports:

- The Management Response is an annual statutory requirement from the PCB to respond to the Organizational Oversight Reports in their entirety. As such, the report will cover all independent reports submitted under this agenda item: the reports of the internal and external auditors, the report of the ethics office, and the first annual report of the UNAIDS IEOAC.
- The report will include an overview of the internal and external auditors and the management response to their recommendations as well as actions taken by the Secretariat to enhance internal controls and strengthen accountability to ensure the effectiveness of use of resources. The Secretariat noted that there had been positive progress in the implementation of internal and external audit recommendations.
- A new section will focus on the implementation of the Joint Inspection Unit's recommendations past and current within the UNAIDS' Secretariat. The Secretariat noted that there had been significant improvement in closing recommendations from the JIU.
- The Organizational Oversight Reports agenda item would be the subject of the pre-meeting session held on Thursday, 16 June 2022.

Agenda item 9: Thematic Segment: *Positive learning: Harnessing the power of education to end HIV-related stigma and discrimination and empower young people living with HIV:*

- Caroline Ngonze, Senior Advisor, UNAIDS Secretariat, provided the update on the agenda item.
- The UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) agreed, at its 49th meeting, that the subject for the 50th PCB thematic segment would be “HIV and men, in all their diversity, how can we get our responses back on track?” , and the thematic segment of the 51st meeting would be “Positive learning: harnessing the power of education to end HIV-related stigma and discrimination, empower young people and provide a comprehensive HIV response”. On 22 March 2022, the PCB agreed intersessionally that the thematic segment topic for the June meeting as approved at the 49th PCB meeting will be exceptionally shifted to the December meeting and the thematic segment topic previewed for the December meeting will be shifted to the June meeting. Accordingly, the topic for June 2022 will be: “*Positive Learning: harnessing the power of education to end HIV-related stigma and discrimination and empower young people living with HIV*”.
- The drafts of the Background Note and Agenda were developed through an iterative process that involved virtual meetings and feedback on the draft documents from the co-sponsors.
- PCB members were invited in March to join a working group to support and guide preparations for the thematic segment, including providing technical inputs and strategic advice on (1) the background paper, (2) collection of country best practice case studies, (3) the agenda, and (4) the speakers for the session.
- Drafts of the background note outline and agenda have been shared with the working group for inputs. The working group has held one meeting thus far and provided its advice during the meeting (held 8 April), as well as in writing via email. Of note was the participation of young people as part of the Member State and PCB NGO delegations.
- A call for submission of country case studies was sent to PCB members and wider stakeholders on 19 April. They will be compiled into a conference room paper for the session. Summaries of a number of these case studies will be incorporated into the background note.
- The background note would focus on the following key messages:
 - o The right to education, inscribed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “epitomizes the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights”. This right is asserted in numerous international and regional treaties, texts and normative frameworks, including Sustainable Development Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda, 25-year reviews of the programme of action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+25) and the Beijing Declaration and platform for action (Beijing declaration +25) all of which speak to tackling inequalities including in access to quality education.
 - o Ending inequalities is the central theme of the Global AIDS Strategy (2021-2026) and the 2021 Political Declaration. These bold new global commitments and targets for 2025 focus attention on the people and communities in greatest need of HIV services, particularly adolescents and young people who continue to be left behind.
 - o Ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, requires a comprehensive, multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach that reaches beyond the health sector, is gender-transformative and rights-based, and can address the social, economic and structural drivers that increase HIV risk and vulnerability for adolescent girls, youth in all their diversity.

- The education sector, both formal and informal, has a key role to play in preventing HIV infections and in supporting adolescents and young learners living with and impacted by HIV to fulfil their right to education in a safe, supportive, inclusive and enabling learning environment, including by connecting health, education, and social service systems and other support mechanisms.
- Ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 will require substantial additional domestic investment, reinvigorated international contributions, intensified coordination and collaboration, more efficient allocation of available resources and creative solutions to the reductions in fiscal space caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Bureau thanked the agenda item focal points for their comprehensive presentations and looked forward to the posting of the final papers and the discussions to be held at the PCB meeting on these important topics. Bureau members requested clarity on the impact of a hybrid meeting on the pre-meeting sessions.

The Secretariat confirmed that, per the modalities and procedures adopted by the PCB intersessionally for hybrid meetings, the pre-meeting sessions would still be held fully virtually. The [schedule for the pre-meeting sessions](#) had been approved by the Bureau and posted on the PCB webpage. In the event that conflicts arose for the pre-meeting sessions with participants traveling for the in-person contingent of the PCB meeting, the Secretariat recalled that pre-meeting presentations are recorded and uploaded onto the secure platform available to all PCB participants.

3. AOB

The PCB Chair raised the topic of hosting the 51st meeting of the PCB in Thailand, as had been proposed at the 49th PCB meeting. The Chair requested further information on next steps to formalize this request.

The Secretariat noted that such a decision would need to be taken by the PCB at the upcoming session or intersessionally. A background paper prepared by the Secretariat would be required to support the PCB's consideration of the request. The Secretariat recalled that the PCB had adopted [specific criteria](#) for considering holding a PCB meeting outside of Geneva at its 21st meeting. The Secretariat would discuss this question with Legal Counsel on the basis of these criteria and revert back to the Bureau.

There was no other business raised and the Chair subsequently closed the meeting, thanking participants for their time and engagement.

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