

## UNAIDS PCB Bureau meeting

DATE: Thursday, 11 February 2021

TIME: 9:30-11:00 (Geneva time)

VENUE: Teams meeting (Virtual)

### **PARTICIPANTS: Participants**

**PCB Bureau:** Dr Kalumbi Shangula, H.E. Ms Julia Imene-Chanduru, Ms Anne-Marie Nitschke, Ms Julieth Karirao and Ms Xungileni Chitundu (Namibia: representing the Chair); Mr Suwit Wibulpolprasert, Mr. Thaksaphon Thammarangsi, Ms Cha-aim Pachanee 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 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, Mr George Farhat, Director of Finance, Ms Marie-Odile Emond, Senior Advisor, and Ms Maggie Lemons, Governance Officer, Governance and Multilateral Affairs

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## **MEETING DRAFT AGENDA**

- 1. Update on the UBRAF Development** *The Bureau will receive an update and provide guidance on the development process for the next UBRAF, including timelines to approval.*
- 2. Briefing on PCB Report to ECOSOC**  
*The Bureau will discuss the facilitation of the briefing on the PCB report 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;"*
- 3. Any other business**

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## SUMMARY

The Chair welcomed colleagues to the Bureau meeting and thanked them for their engagement and leadership at the recent PCB Briefing on the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026. The Chair recalled that participants from the briefing had received the presentations from that meeting, including from the PCB Bureau, with a communication on a deadline to submit any additional written comments on the Strategy. Further to that deadline, the Joint Programme will finalize the Strategy for presentation at the March 2021 Special Session.

### 1. Update on UBRAF Development

The Chair welcomed the Secretariat's UBRAF development team to provide the update on the new results and accountability framework and recalled decision point 9.5 from the 47<sup>th</sup> PCB meeting: *"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;"*

The Chair noted that the purpose of today's discussion was to review progress made and adherence to the decision point as well as to provide the UBRAF team with strategic guidance on the timelines for the development and deployment of the next framework. Prior to the meeting, Bureau participants received a briefing note on the UBRAF development to support their discussion.

The Secretariat, George Farhat, Director of Finance and Marie-Odile Emond, Senior Advisor, , presented the update as follows:

- Decisions from the 47<sup>th</sup> PCB meeting will inform the development of the next UBRAF:
  - o 5.1 "Requests the Joint Programme to: a. ensure that prevention of new HIV infections, is given high priority in the new Global AIDS Strategy and new UNAIDS Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework with a particular focus on populations and locations with high HIV incidence, prevalence, and high risk of infection, including through combination prevention;"
  - o 6.6 "Calls on the Joint Programme to ensure that the UBRAF includes coordinated support to countries to reduce new HIV infections among children, adolescents and young people and to end paediatric AIDS; and to report on progress as part of annual UBRAF reporting;"
  - o 9.5 "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;"
  - o 9.7 "Requests the Joint Programme to revisit the Management Response and commit to an ambitious result area dedicated to gender in the strategy and integrating gender-responsive actions, indicators and resources within the new UBRAF to deliver for women and girls and for all key and vulnerable populations most at risk of HIV and AIDS;"

- The UBRAF development will also be informed by the JIU Recommendations from its 2019 review of the Joint Programme, independent evaluations, external audit recommendations, system mechanisms (UN SWAP, WCPR, SDG Funding Compact), and key stakeholders.
- The UBRAF is linked to global processes, including the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 and the political declaration. The Joint Programme capacity assessment and Secretariat alignment will also be key inputs.
- The key components of new UBRAF will include:
  - o Vision and theory of change accompanied by a results framework with clear prioritization and emphasis on addressing structural drivers
  - o Joint programme capacity review and secretariat alignment
  - o Resource requirements and transparent allocation process
  - o Accountability, monitoring and reporting system
- The new UBRAF will include a high-level strategic programme of work, budget and accountability that will include sections such as
  - o JP Vision for results
  - o Theory of change and result structure
  - o High level financing scenarios and resource allocation
  - o Paired with biannual budgets and workplans
- The Secretariat proposed three potential options for the timeline:
  - o Option 1: both UBRAF framework and budget and workplan presented for adoption at 48<sup>th</sup> PCB
    - The Secretariat noted that this was a tight timeline and would limit time available to consult stakeholders.
  - o Option 2: present high-level framework to June PCB and then detailed workplan and budget at Special Session held in September
    - This option allows for more time for consultation and permits time for parallel processes to finish and feed into final UBRAF, including the Political Declaration and the alignment process.
  - o Option 3: dialogue on zero draft of framework at June PCB and then both high-level framework and detailed workplan and budget presented at Special Session held in September
    - This option would allow for greater engagement with Board and other constituencies before finalization of the UBRAF.
- The Secretariat also outlined two potential options for the UBRAF framework: a four-year and six-year cycle.
  - o Biannual budgets and workplans require either a four or six-year cycle. In considering the options, it will be important to consider alignment with indicators, targets, and the QCPR.
  - o The Secretariat noted that both timelines are possible, but each comes with challenges. Guidance from the Bureau was particularly welcomed on these options.
- In addition, the Secretariat noted that the UBRAF development process will be inclusive with consultation with the PCB. The proposed timeline to adoption will have implications for the feasibility of some of these opportunities.
- A Joint Programme Steering group, chaired by CCO Chair (WHO), and a complementary Secretariat working group have been established. External expertise will also be solicited to support the development of the theory of change and alignment.
- In addition to regular updates provided to the PCB Bureau, the Secretariat requested feedback on options for external engagement:
  - o A working group established by the Executive Director, in line with the Modus Operandi, of experts
  - o A PCB Subcommittee established by the PCB

- The proposed paper to submit at the March PCB will be 10-15 pages and would aim to include:
  - o Introduction building on the global AIDS strategy, previous PCB decisions, lessons from the current UBRAF and most recent evaluations and reports
  - o Interlinkages showing alignment with other key global processes
  - o Highlight what will be new/different with this new results and accountability framework
  - o Timeframe and scope
  - o Timelines for UBRAF development
  - o Proposed decision points

The Joint Programme looks forward to continued work with the PCB Bureau throughout this process.

PCB Bureau members thanked the Secretariat for the update. They requested clarification regarding the choice between the four and six-year options and its alignment with the QCPR and the political declaration. Members requested additional information regarding funding outlook and its impact on the UBRAF. Regarding the options for the timeline to adopt the UBRAF, members noted that option 3 (framework, workplan and budget adopted in September at a Special Session) seemed protracted) and recognized that option 1 (framework, workplan and budget adopted at the June PCB) would likely be too compressed.

The Secretariat noted that while a four-year option aligned with the targets (2022-2025), the six-year option (2022-2027) would align well with the development of a subsequent Strategy. The next Strategy process would kick off with final reporting against the 2025 targets in mid-2026. A new strategy would be developed further to these lessons learned and in accordance with new targets. Further to that, the next UBRAF would be developed and finalized. A timeline to adopt a new UBRAF in June 2027 would align with this timing. A six-year UBRAF would also minimize some of the high transaction costs required from the development of a new UBRAF, both in terms of time and work level.

As in the past, the UBRAF would draw on the QCPR framework and lessons learned. The biannual workplan and budget provides additional space to adapt the UBRAF to the latest QCPR guidelines regardless of a four or six-year cycle (as was done, for instance, in 2018 during the mid-term review of the UBRAF).

For the UBRAF to most appropriately align with the global targets adopted in the political declaration, the framework and indicators should be finalized further to the adoption of the political declaration. This timeline would support options 2 and 3 (to hold a special session in September) regarding the approval of the new UBRAF.

The Secretariat also noted that the funding dialogues would be an important forum for the discussion on funding outlooks and their impact on the UBRAF but indicated that the UBRAF would include a variety of scenarios as suggested by the independent evaluation of the UN system response to AIDS 2016-2019.

Members of the Bureau welcomed the Secretariat's rationale for the options on the scope and timing of the next UBRAF and on the establishment of a Working Group to support the process. On the basis of these explanations, they noted support for the six-year option to align with the Strategy and for the establishment of a Working Group by the Executive Director to support the development process. Bureau members noted support for a Special Session of the PCB to be held in September to allow for appropriate consultation and drafting of the next UBRAF further to the

adoption of the Strategy. They reiterated their commitment to ensuring that the next UBRAF is strong, realistic, and supports the Joint Programme in delivering on its mandate.

The Chair recalled that the UBRAF will be the subject of a pre-meeting held on Thursday, 11 March 2021.

## **2. Briefing on the PCB Report to ECOSOC**

The Chair noted that the comments received from the PCB Bureau on the ECOSOC Report outline have been integrated. Requests included the core funding numbers for 2019 (as 2020 data is still pending) and an explicit articulation of UNAIDS' funding since 2015. The revised outline was shared prior to the meeting.

The Chair suggested to hold the PCB Briefing on the ECOSOC report on Monday, 22 February 2021 from 13:00-15:00. The revised outline and a save-the-date invitation will be sent to PCB members in advance.

The Chair proposed, for Bureau feedback, that the presentation at the briefing would be simple, reviewing the key messages and process for finalization and submission to ECOSOC. With the Bureau's agreement, the Chair will draft a presentation and submit to the Bureau for consideration. The Chair noted that the Bureau benefited from having many members of the 2020 PCB Working Group on the JIU Recommendations as their work directly contributed to the PCB's ECOSOC report.

The Chair recalled the process for finalization:

- The Bureau members will now clear and send the outline of the report to PCB members for review in advance of the PCB briefing.
- The briefing will be held on Monday, 22 February 2021 from 13:00-15:00. This would be an opportunity for members to raise any issues/additions and to request clarification.
- The PCB members will have the opportunity to submit any additional written comments on the outline by COB, Tuesday, 23 February 2021. This deadline will be communicated in the save-the-date email.
- The Chair with the support of the consultant and the Secretariat will finalize a draft paper taking into account the comments and feedback.
- The draft paper will be submitted to the PCB Bureau for comment and approval before posted on the PCB website in advance of the March Special Session.
- The paper approved at the March Special Session would then be submitted to the president of ECOSOC by the PCB Chair.

Bureau members thanked the Chair for providing the update and looked forward to the proposal from the Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, on the presentation at the PCB Briefing.

## **3. AOB**

Members of the Bureau noted the importance of the upcoming High-Level meeting and requested that a future Bureau discussion focus on that meeting and the expected deliverables.

The PCB Chair noted that, further to the PCB Briefing on the Strategy, the Secretariat had received a Note Verbale from a Member State requesting that the rule 5 of the Modus Operandi be

removed from the intersessional paper, *Modalities and Procedures for virtual 2021 PCB meetings*. The Secretariat noted that legal counsel opinion had been sought (annex 1).

The Bureau acknowledged the concerns from the Member State and agreed to annex the legal opinion to the summary of this meeting. Furthermore, the PCB Chair agreed to engage with the Member State to ensure that the concerns would be considered.

The PCB Chair thanked participants and closed the meeting.

[Annexes follow]

## Annex 1: Legal Opinion

Adoption and implementation of PCB virtual meeting modalities for 2021

1. In document UNAIDS/PCB(EM)/3.2 « MODALITIES AND PROCEDURES FOR VIRTUAL 2021 UNAIDS PCB MEETINGS », the PCB Bureau proposed to define specific modalities for PCB virtual meetings in 2021. Said modalities are inspired by the experiment made in 2020 after the spread of the covid-19 pandemic.

The document has been submitted to PCB Members through the intersessional procedure laid down in Annex 3 to the PCB Modus Operandi. After extension of the deadline by the Bureau, the quorum of 15 PCB members voting was reached and a majority of Members voted in favour of the document. Hence the document will govern PCB virtual meetings in 2021.

2. The adoption of the above-mentioned document does not mean that the rules laid down in the Modus Operandi will be set aside during the 2021 PCB virtual meetings. The MO rules will apply together with the 2021 specific rules any time they are compatible with them. In case of inconsistency between both set of rules, the specific 2021 rules will apply instead of the Modus Operandi rules.
3. The rule of procedure nr. 5 laid down in Annex 2 to the MO reads as follows : « The Chairperson may at any time, with the consent of the PCB, close the debate on the item under discussion whether or not any other member has signified the wish to speak. » This rule has not been set aside by the modalities adopted through the intersessional procedure and is not inconsistent with them (on the contrary, para. 6 of document UNAIDS/PCB(EM)/3.2 recalls the rule of procedure nr. 5).

Rule of procedure nr. 5 is therefore fully applicable to the virtual PCB meetings in 2021. The ability of the Chairperson to close the debate with the agreement of the PCB is however only a possibility and never an obligation.

4. In case the Chair decides to use rule of procedure nr. 5, the consent of the PCB needs to be obtained through the usual modalities : the Chair must endeavour to obtain a consensus on the decision to close the discussion, and its adoption by vote may occur only if a consensus can't be reached.

PCB Legal Counsel

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