UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD WORKING GROUP

THEMATIC SEGMENT:

What do 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?

MEETING SUMMARY: THIRD MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

DATE: Tuesday, 2 November 2021

MEETING AGENDA

• 	Welcome and introduction

• 	Presentation of the draft agenda for the thematic segment on "What do 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?"

• 	Discussion on the draft agenda

• 	Way forward

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SUMMARY

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Mr. Morten Ussing, Chief of Governance and Multilateral Affairs, UNAIDS Secretariat, welcomed the PCB working group to its third and final meeting for the preparation of the thematic segment of the 49th PCB on *What do 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 Secretariat thanked the members for their written comments following the second meeting of the working group and said he was looking forward to the working group comments on the draft agenda. Mr. Ussing explained that the meeting was also an opportunity to provide comments on the suggested speakers for the thematic segment as well as on the flow of the day.

The Secretariat mentioned that the near-final background note had been sent to the WG members at the same time as the draft agenda to inform the discussion. Mr. Ussing also stated that 31 case studies / best practices from all regions had been received. Case studies will be consolidated into a conference room paper which will be published on the PCB website and used as a resource also for other UNAIDS publications. A selected set of case studies will also be used to illustrate key parts of the thematic segment background note.

1. Presentation of the draft agenda

Mr. Fontaine presented the draft agenda for discussion. He said that Peter Ghys, the Director of the Strategic Information Department, was suggested as the moderator for the whole thematic segment. The thematic segment would open with four keynote speeches. The first one would be the Minister of state of Jamaica who would speak to the data-driven leadership of Jamaica's AIDS response. She would be followed by a high-level speaker representing the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to highlight the longstanding Global Fund-UNAIDS collaboration on the collection and use of various data. The third keynote speech would be by Dr Meg Davis, a researcher who has recently published a book entitled "the uncounted", with a focus on populations left uncounted, including criminalized populations, by data collection tools. This would be followed by UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima's opening remarks.

With regards to the overview, the Secretariat said it was proposed that UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director, Dr Shannon Hader, would deliver the main messages from the background note and set the Board up for a deeper dive into the panel discussions, preceded by an opportunity for remarks from the floor.

The Secretariat explained that panel 1, entitled "leveraging data to fill gaps in service coverage" and lasting one hour, would feature a panel of speakers who will focus on how we can better leverage data and related technology to expand service coverage in line with 2025 and 2030 targets. The first speaker would potentially be a senior representative of the Malawi AIDS programme to talk about the importance of using routine health system data and demographic survey data to guide national HIV responses. The second speaker would be a representative of MPACT in Senegal, to give an example of the use of community-generated data to improve service coverage. The third panelist would cover the use of data and learning networks to differentiate HIV service delivery in the COVID era and would potentially be someone from the CQUIN Network. The fourth area to be addressed by this panel was inspired by a case study received from the University of New South Wales in Australia, on sustainable and ethical collection of data to improve service coverage among key populations, with a specific focus on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis. Concerning the final speaker on this panel, UNICEF is being approached to speak to the stacked-bar analyses to eliminate vertical transmission of HIV.

The Secretariat indicated that this panel would be followed by remarks from the floor and a short break before participants would dive into the second panel entitled "leveraging data to reduce stigma and discrimination and improve quality of services". This session will feature a panel of speakers who will focus on how we can better leverage data and related technology to reach the societal enabler targets for 2025 and improve the quality of services for people living with HIV and people at substantial risk of HIV infection. The first speaker would address use of community-generated data to improve service quality and it is proposed to reach out to both the Ritshidze Project in South Africa and the ITPC/Five Cities Project to get a speaker. The second panelist would focus on how to strengthen and fully leverage systems for individual patient monitoring, and PEPFAR was solicited to explore speaker options. The third topic to be addressed on this panel stems from a case study from Portugal on the decriminalization of drug use and the data analyses that have been done to show that legal changes and the acceleration of harm reduction led to important gains against HIV in Portugal. The fourth panelist would speak to using data to reduce stigma and discrimination in health-care settings, and we are in the process to reaching out to a representative of Thailand.

Mr. Fontaine informed that the panel discussion would be followed by remarks from the floor and then a closing and way forward section led by UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director Dr Shannon Hader. He then described the next steps: to confirm all speakers and work with them and the moderator on the specifics of their interventions such a lengths and key points. The Secretariat also explained that it would aim to achieve geographical, gender and constituency balance in the final selection of speakers.

Mr. Ussing added that although the thematic segment falls under the modus operandi of the PCB and must follow PCB rules and regulations, the virtual set up allowed for organizing panels differently and the Secretariat was flexible to allow maximum fluidity in the discussions inasmuch the thematic segment is not part of the formal segment. He reiterated the openness to hear alternative suggestions and the importance of the ideas coming from the thematic segment working group.

2. Discussion of the draft agenda

Member States

- Indicated that data come across as positive whereas data can be difficult to collect and use and can be contested and this should be brought out in the agenda.

Cosponsors

- Suggested that it could be interesting to have audience polling questions to keep the session interactive. This would allow us to some data collection on our own by asking the audience what they think is the best way to use data and areas that people feel strongly about where data can make a really big difference.
- On the background note, remarked that there could be a reference to the SDGs, in particular target 3.3.1 related HIV and AIDS to situate HIV-related data in the broader set of data needed for achieving the 2030 agenda.
- Observed that the balance of regions is good but noted a gap with regards to the humanitarian and emergency focus which could be included as a case study.

The PCB NGO delegation

- Informed that speakers nominated from civil society came out of a concern that data is only portrayed as a good thing, when it is really is two-edged sword.
- Suggested civil society not be constrained to service delivery in panel 2. Community-generated data is used to improve not just service delivery but also quality of life and the speakers could thus speak to the width of the HIV response which goes beyond service delivery.

In response to the comments, Mr. Ussing clarified that there are ways of giving people a speaking role outside of the panels, through interventions from the floor. Although the meeting was not intending to take comments on the background note which had had the two previous meetings dedicated to it, the Secretariat would consider the further comments received. With regards to the agenda, Mr. Fontaine said that we could look at ways of giving the second panel a wider angle of discussion which would be reflected in the next iteration of the agenda.

3. WAY FORWARD

Mr. Ussing expressed gratitude to the working group members for their work and encouraged those wishing to send additional comments on the draft agenda to do so until **Friday 5 November** close-of-business. He suggested sending comments to the entire

working group to generate reactions to the ideas shared. Mr. Ussing also spoke to the excellent timeliness of the inputs the working group making it possible to finalize the background note on time and allowing for a timely French translation to be posted on the UNAIDS website.

He noted that on the day preceding the PCB (9th December), the Board would make decisions of the themes for the thematic segments of 2022 based on PCB Bureau suggestions and there would be a background paper on the subject. The PCB Bureau would be discussing shortly, and a summary of the discussion would also be posted on the UNAIDS website before the PCB meeting.

Lastly, Mr. Ussing said he looked forward to seeing all working group members at the PCB meeting and in particular on 10th December for the thematic segment itself.

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