

**Informal Multistakeholder Task Team to provide recommendations
To the PCB Bureau on UNAIDS funding situation (immediate and sustainable)**

**Fifth meeting
Draft Summary Report**

The fifth and final meeting of the Informal Multistakeholder Task Team to provide recommendations to the PCB Bureau on the UNAIDS funding situation was held on 1 November 2022. The meeting was hybrid, with virtual participation of Task Team members and face-to-face participation at UNAIDS Global Centre in Geneva.

Welcome, Objectives of the fifth meeting of the Task Team, Adoption of meeting agenda

In the absence of co-chair Dr Mohamed Chakroun (Tunisia), co-chair Ms Julia Martin (United States of America) chaired the meeting and welcomed members of the Task Team. Ms Martin noted that the purpose of the fifth meeting was to discuss two issues associated with sustainable funding: private sector (including foundations) engagement and the possibility of obtaining matching funds from Programme Countries. Ms Martin reviewed the meeting agenda, which the Task Team approved.

Brief update of co-chair presentation to the PCB Bureau – 20 October 2022 meeting

Ms Martin reported that the Task Team's 20 October briefing of the PCB Bureau focused primarily on the Joint Programme's relationship with the Global Fund and with the differing trajectories for core and non-core funding. She reported that the Bureau was actively engaged in the discussion and that they were interested in the feasibility of mobilizing additional funding in response to the funding appeal letters sent to PCB members by Task Team co-chairs and the UNAIDS Executive Director. Mr Morten Ussing, UNAIDS Director of Governance and Multilateral Affairs, reminded Task Team members that the PCB Bureau would submit the ultimate report to the PCB for discussion at the December PCB meeting, but that the paper would be based on the Task Team's findings and recommendations.

Presentation of proposed recommendations on private sector and foundations

Ms Rosemary Museminali, UNAIDS Director of External and Donor Relations, noted that the Secretariat is working to build its capacity to mobilize funding from the private sector and foundations. She reported that UNAIDS already receives funding from such foundations as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Open Society Foundations and is also contemplating fundraising approaches with others, such as the Ford Foundation. In the Secretariat's outreach to foundations, the primary focus is to mobilize core funding although there is also openness to non-core funding. Ms Museminali observed that it often takes considerable time to cultivate relationships with foundations.

Ms Museminali also addressed the Secretariat's fundraising efforts focused on private businesses. Some businesses are already undertaking work in the communities where they have a presence, including through HIV workplace policies. Certain sectors, such as the pharmaceuticals, fossil fuel companies or makers of fast-food products or sugary beverages, would be difficult for UNAIDS to fundraise from, in part due to the considerable due diligence that would be required. In the case of the pharmaceutical industry, UNAIDS has not sought direct contributions but instead used its advocacy to encourage companies to increase access to medicines.

The Task Team welcomed the Secretariat's plans to increase its capacity to fundraise from the private sector and recommended full implementation of the strategic resource mobilization plan. The Task Team encouraged the Secretariat to approach private philanthropy holistically, taking account of philanthropies outside the global north, including foundations that specifically focus on funding in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

With respect to private business and industry, the Task Team recommended that the Secretariat intensify its efforts to raise funding from business sectors with which the Joint Programme has no philosophical conflict. Efraim Gómez, UNAIDS Chief of Staff, noted that the Secretariat is already working on mobilizing resource from various private companies and that intensified fundraising outreach to the private sector is an important area of emphasis for the updated strategic resource mobilization plan. The Task Team recommended that the Secretariat redouble its efforts to obtain not only in-kind support from the private sector but for actual financial commitments. The Task Team acknowledged that discretion is needed in the prioritization of private sector outreach, as the Secretariat's fundraising staff is finite and as small contributions may not warrant substantial investments of time and energy. The Task Team commented that a focus on country level private sector investments, seeking to match country-specific private companies with local impact opportunities, may be a successful approach to improved engagement of the private sector.

The Task Team undertook an extensive discussion of the differing trajectories for core funding (on the decline) and non-core funding (on the rise) as well as some confusion associated with these two categories. The Secretariat emphasized that its overarching aim in its resource mobilization is to obtain full funding of the UBRAF – 'core funding.' Task Team members acknowledged that many government donors, foundations, and private companies prefer to earmark their contributions for specific purposes or scopes of work, but the Task Team encouraged the Secretariat to consider whether certain earmarked funds might be reclassified as core UBRAF funding. In particular, classifying more contributions as core funding, it was noted, could increase Cosponsors' access to resources. In this regard, Secretariat staff noted that the separate reporting requirements typically required for earmarked donations complicate matters.

Ms Martin observed that persistent shortfalls in core funding, accompanied by periodic use of the reserve fund, was not sustainable, asking whether the Joint Programme had undertaken an analysis of work it might be forced to discontinue or deprioritize in the

event of continued budget difficulties. It was noted that the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (CCO) has endorsed planning for different funding scenarios for the Joint Programme.

The Task Team also discussed the potential for mobilizing funding from regional bodies, including but not limited to the European Commission (EC). Ms Museminali reported that the Secretariat has embarked on an effort to persuade the European Commission, which used to contribute to UNAIDS but no longer does, to return as a UNAIDS donor. It was noted that the European Commission supports the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. UNAIDS is currently working to complete a pillar assessment, which is a prerequisite to receiving EC funding.

Presentation of proposed recommendations on Programme Countries matching funds

The Task Team discussed the feasibility of obtaining matching support from Programme Country governments for investments the Joint Programme makes in these countries. Tim Martineau, UNAIDS Director of Management, reported that there is precedent for this, as Kazakhstan matches UNAIDS programme investments. It was also observed that Kenya has made a US\$ 10 million multi-year investment in the Global Fund, in recognition of their partnership in addressing AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Kenya.

The Task Team recommended that the Joint Programme pursue the possibility of country matching investments in a targeted and strategic manner, taking into account both country envelope funding and broader country investments by the Joint Programme. One potential entry point for these discussions is the development by Joint UN Teams on AIDS of country-specific plans.

It was agreed that contributions by Programme Countries offer a potential avenue for strengthening the Joint Programme's country programming, which inevitably suffers when resource mobilization falls short of UBRAF targets. Mr Gómez proposed that the Secretariat develop criteria to guide targeted country outreach, a proposal which was welcomed by the Task Team.

Conclusions and next steps

The Task Team discussed the timeline for completing its work and presenting its findings and recommendations to the PCB Bureau. Under the PCB's decisions, it is the Bureau that is responsible for reporting to the PCB on options to address the UNAIDS funding situation. The PCB Bureau's report to the PCB must be posted by 15 November 2022. It was agreed that the Task Team's presentation to the Bureau should address both short- and long-term recommendations and describe options with respect to currency fluctuations, leveraging the PCB's duty of care to close the Joint Programme's funding shortfall, co-investment to the Global Fund and UNAIDS, private sector resource mobilization, country matching support, re-defining core and non-core funding and engagement of Cosponsors in resource mobilization.

The Task Team identified as an overarching goal of its collective recommendations the full funding of the UBRAF for the remainder of the current strategic plan (i.e. through 2026). Realization of this goal will require:

- Ownership by the PCB, the Joint Programme and the Secretariat to mobilize the full US\$ 210 million for the UBRAF;
- Active support for the implementation of the UNAIDS strategic resource mobilization plan;
- Mobilization of people living with HIV, communities, and civil society to strongly advocate with governments and other donors for full funding for UNAIDS; and
- Urgent collaborative work by the Boards and Secretariats of the Global Fund and UNAIDS to resolve the under-funding of the Joint Programme, which threatens the ability of UNAIDS to support countries and undermines the effectiveness of the Global Fund.

The meeting was adjourned.