



## UNAIDS PCB BUREAU MEETING

**DATE:** Friday 28 July 2023

**TIME:** 14:00-15:00 (CET)

**VENUE:** Virtual Zoom meeting

### PARTICIPANTS

#### PCB Bureau:

**Germany: Representing the PCB Chair:** Mr Binod Mahanty, Referent Infectious Diseases, Global Health Policy, German Ministry of Health; Mr Luca Kaupp, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

**Kenya: Representing the PCB Vice-Chair:** Dr Ruth Laibon Masha, Chief Executive Officer, National Syndemic Diseases Control Council, Nairobi, Kenya; Dr Douglas Bosire, National Syndemic Diseases Control Council, Nairobi, Kenya.

**Brazil: Representing the PCB Rapporteur:** Ms Débora Antônia Lobato Cândido, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva; Ms Tatiana Estrela, Department of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Viral Hepatitis and STIs, Ministry of Health; Dr Ana Kolling, Technical Consultant, Ministry of Health.

**Representing the PCB NGO Delegation:** Gaston Devisich, Community Engagement Representative, Fundación Huésped, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**UNODC: Representing the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations:** Ms Fariba Soltani, Global Coordinator, UNODC Vienna, Austria; Mr Ehab Salah, UNAIDS Focal Point, Adviser Prisons and HIV, UNODC Vienna, Austria.

**Evaluation Office:** Mr Joel Rehnstrom, Director Evaluation Office; Ms Jyothi Nilambur, Senior Adviser, Evaluation Office.

**UNAIDS Secretariat:** Mr Morten Ussing, Director Governance; Ms Hewson Adriana, Governance Officer; Ms Sara Amara, Governance Assistant; Ms Adwoa Aboah, Governance Intern; Ms Maya Salama, Governance Intern.

### MEETING AGENDA

- 1. Update on the implementation of UNAIDS 2022-2023 evaluation plan:** *The Director of Evaluation will present to the Bureau the semi-annual update on the implementation of UNAIDS 2022-2023 evaluation plan and followed by a discussion on the membership of the Expert Advisory Committee.*

2. **PCB Thematic segments for 2024:** *The Secretariat will provide an update on the process for the selection of the thematic segments of the 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> PCB meeting in 2024.*
  3. **Next PCB Bureau meetings:** *The Bureau will decide on the dates of its next meetings of 2023.*
  4. **Any other business**
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## Summary of the Meeting

The Chair reiterated its appreciation for the successful convening of the 52<sup>nd</sup> PCB meeting and the support provided for all preparatory undertakings. Additionally, the Chair thanked the Bureau for their engagement in the informal consultations on the 2023 ECOSOC resolution on the Joint Programme adopted by consensus last month in New York.

The purpose of the meeting was to offer the Bureau an update on the progress of the implementation of the UNAIDS 2022-2023 evaluation plan. Additionally, an update was provided on the PCB thematic, covering the procedure for selecting the thematic segments of the 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> PCB meetings in 2024. The meeting also served as an opportunity for the Bureau to decide on the dates for the Bureau's forthcoming meetings in 2023.

### 1. Update on the implementation of UNAIDS 2022-2023 evaluation plan

Joel Rehnstorm, the Director of Evaluation, presented to the Bureau the semi-annual update on the implementation of the UNAIDS 2022-2023 evaluation plan as follows:

- The Director gave a brief overview of the role of the evaluation office as part of the overall architecture for evaluation:
  - The Board approves the evaluation plan and considers annual reports on evaluation.
  - The Expert Advisory Committee provides advice and guidance to UNAIDS Evaluation Office.
  - The Cosponsor Evaluation Offices provide support and participate in joint evaluations.
  - The Evaluation Office is responsible for developing the evaluation plan, conducting all evaluations, and monitoring follow-up to evaluations. It is functionally independent, positioned independently and reports to the Board.
- The Director presented feedback from the annual report debate at the December 2022 PCB. It was highlighted that the Evaluation Office has done very good work, even in the context of resource limitations, and that efforts to conduct joint evaluations would be welcome. The feedback also stressed the need for disseminating the evaluation findings widely to reveal past challenges and achievements and to provide guidance for future actions, developing management responses in a timely fashion and implementing

evaluation recommendations swiftly. The role of the Executive Director in safeguarding the evaluation function, especially for its contribution to resource mobilization, was emphasized. A call was made to eliminate financial and staff resource constraints, advocating for the full funding for evaluation to be allocated as per the [UNAIDS Evaluation Policy](#). Additionally, the Evaluation Office was encouraged to work closely with the evaluation offices of the Cosponsors and to remain an active member of United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG).

- The Director gave an overview of the recent evaluations that have been completed or are ongoing, including on the Secretariat Data Hubs, Country Envelopes, HIV and Social Protection, and HIV and Primary Health Care. He mentioned three evaluations that are in the design phase: the UNAIDS collaborative agreement with the CDC, the Global Partnership to eliminate stigma and discrimination, and the SDG 3 Global Action Plan (led by WHO).
- The Director presented the evaluation budget. He highlighted that given the tightened financial situation, the number of evaluations and activities will have to be scaled back. He noted that while the implementation of the evaluation plan (budget-wise) is on track, a slowdown of implementation is expected in the second half of the year.

The Director presented the seven current members of the Expert Advisory Committee: Dr Elizabeth Moreira dos Santos, researcher and independent consultant (Latin America and Caribbean), Chair; Mr Raymond Yekeye, Chair of the National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe (Africa); Dr Zunyou Wu, Chief Epidemiologist, Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Asia-Pacific); Ms Sigrid Vorobjov, Senior Researcher, National Institute for Health Development, Estonia (Eastern Europe); Professor Till Bärnighausen, Director of the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (Western European and Other Countries); Ms San Patten, independent research and evaluation consultant (NGO Delegation); Mr Marco Segone, Director of the UNFPA Evaluation Office (Cosponsor Evaluation Group).

- The Director explained that six of the seven members will be completing their second two-year term at the end of 2023. According to the terms of reference of the Committee, members serve for two years and can be reappointed once. Therefore, the PCB is requested to “issue a call for nominations for members of the Committee and review the nominations; ensure the Committee has the required technical expertise and is geographically representative and gender-balanced; propose the membership of the committee as well as a Chair for agreement by the PCB”.
- The Director then presented two suggestions from the Evaluation Office on how the Bureau could ensure continuity in the work of the Committee members during the time of transition. The first proposal is to consider allowing Board constituencies to exceptionally nominate current members for another one or two-year period. The second proposal is to propose a current member for a one-year period for agreement by the Board if a constituency does not nominate a candidate. The Director highlighted that all seven members have

contributed actively to the work of the Committee and could be considered for an extension. Three of the seven members have indicated that they would be happy to continue and four have said they are willing to continue if asked.

- The Director gave an overview of the situation of the period leading up to December:
  - Further prioritization of evaluations and activities given the current staffing and funding situation and the transition in the Evaluation Office.
  - The development of a new evaluation plan for 2024-2025 and presentation of the evaluation plan and annual report to the Board in December.
  - Continuity in the guidance and support provided by the Expert Advisory Committee to be ensured to facilitate the transition.
- The Director welcomed the new Senior Advisor on Evaluation, Jyothi Nilanbur, who will take over the work of Elizabeth Pegurri. The position of Director of Evaluation is currently under recruitment for a new Director of Evaluation in accordance with provision 48 of the [UNAIDS Evaluation Policy](#).
- To conclude, the Director noted that the vacancy notice has been issued and closed. Additional updates will be provided at the next Bureau meeting in September.

The presentation was followed by a discussion on the membership of the Expert Advisory Committee.

The Bureau thanked the Evaluation Office for its work and the presentation. The Chair clarified that 'constituencies' refers to the regional groups as established by ECOSOC. The Bureau highlighted the need to retain institutional memory by ensuring that a significant number of Committee members do not finish their term at the same time. Therefore, the Bureau supported the proposal of the Evaluation Office to extend the term for current members to ensure turnover is staggered. However, the Bureau noted that there is no precedent for extending the term of Committee members beyond two 2-year terms. The [UNAIDS Evaluation Policy](#) would be updated accordingly and submitted to the PCB for approval.

The Bureau agreed that a combination of the two proposals presented by the Evaluation Office may be the most suitable. The Chair requested the Secretariat to send a call to the regional constituents asking if they would like to nominate a new member or re-nominate a current serving member (Annex 1). Based on the responses, the Bureau will agree at their next meeting if any adjustments are necessary. The Bureau further agreed that the final proposal would be presented to the PCB in December. The Bureau noted that, in accordance with the [UNAIDS Evaluation Policy](#), it is the role of the PCB to approve the composition of the Committee going forward.

## **2. PCB Thematic segments for 2024**

The Secretariat provided an update on the process for the selection of the thematic segments of the 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> PCB meetings in 2024.

- The Secretariat recalled the process for selecting the theme of thematic segments. Following a call for proposals of themes, Bureau members discuss the proposals received and recommend two themes to the Board for approval at the December PCB meeting each year.
- The first call was sent on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (Annex 2) and the deadline for submission is 15<sup>th</sup> September.
- The Secretariat noted that it is only PCB members who can propose themes, but their submissions can be supported by observers. It is recommended that proposals brought forward are supported by multiple constituencies and co-proposals are encouraged.
- The next Bureau meeting will discuss the proposals on the basis of the four criteria outlined in the call which are: Broad relevance, Responsiveness, Focus and Scope for action.
- The call also lists out themes of previous PCB thematic segments in order to evaluate if submitted proposals have already been discussed either in the formal segment of the PCB or previous thematic segments. These are important parameters so as to get a variety of themes discussed for the segment.

The Bureau thanked the UNAIDS Secretariat for the succinct update and encouraged members of the Board to submit proposals, particularly by collaborating regionally and across member states, cosponsors and NGO delegates to co-propose themes. The Bureau showed enthusiasm towards the process of discussing the themes for the 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> PCB thematic segments.

### **3. Next PCB Bureau meetings**

The Bureau decided on the dates of its next meetings in 2023.

- The Secretariat suggested the following dates for the next PCB meetings: 27 September, 11 or 25 October and, 3 or 27 November.
- The Chair informed that during the IEOAC meeting in Geneva, scheduled for 18 to 20 October, a hybrid meeting will be arranged between Bureau members and the IEOAC committee.

The Bureau agreed to the suggested date for the next Bureau meeting being 27 September. The subsequent dates are tentative and subject to change.

### **4. Any other business (AOB)**

There was no other business discussed.

*[Annexes follows]*

## **Annex 1: Call for Nominations of members of the Expert Advisory Committee on Evaluation**

*This message is sent on behalf of the PCB Chair and Bureau*

*This message is sent to the Member States of the UNAIDS PCB, the PCB NGO Delegation with a copy to all UN Permanent Missions in Geneva and UNAIDS Cosponsors*

Dear colleagues,

### **Expert Advisory Committee on Evaluation – Call for Nominations**

An Expert Advisory Committee on evaluation has provided guidance and support to UNAIDS Evaluation Office since 2019, when it was established based on decision 6.6 of the 44th meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) which approved [UNAIDS Evaluation Policy](#).

The current composition of the Committee was approved by the PCB at its 49th meeting in 2021.

Current Committee members will be completing their terms at the end of 2023 and the PCB Bureau is therefore **calling for nominations of members of the Expert Advisory Committee on evaluation** to be communicated to [pcbgovernance@unaid.org](mailto:pcbgovernance@unaid.org) by **15 September 2023**.

Due to difficulties experienced by the Committee in pursuing its agenda during the Covid-19 pandemic, the terms of the Committee members who had engaged actively in the work of the Committee were extended for two years in 2021. As a result, six out of the seven members of the Committee will now be completing their second two-year term at the end of 2023. According to the terms of reference of the Committee, members shall serve for two years and can only be reappointed once.

However, to **ensure continuity in the advice and support provided by the Committee** to UNAIDS Evaluation Office, which is going through a transition, Board members could exceptionally **consider re-nominating a current member** for a one or two-year period to ensure a staggered rotation going forward, as is already established practice for members of the PCB's Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee.

All seven members Expert Advisory Committee on Evaluation have contributed actively to the work of the Committee in the last two years and could therefore be considered for another one- or two-year term.

If the Bureau does not receive new nominations from regional groups by 15 September, it will propose a renomination of a current member for a further two-year term for 3 members and one year for 4 members of the Committee. In this case, the PCB Bureau would approach the Committee members to agree who would serve for one additional year and who would serve for a two-year term. The composition of the Committee for 2024 would then be put forward for the Board's approval at the dedicated session on evaluation at the 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the PCB.

### **Additional information**

The Expert Advisory Committee provides advice and guidance on the UNAIDS evaluation function and is an independent, external body which reports to the Board. All members of the Expert Advisory Committee shall be technical experts with strong experience in the field of evaluation.

The Committee shall consist of up to **seven members** who are nominated by PCB **Member States (5 – one per ECOSOC region)**, the **PCB NGO delegation (1)** and **Cosponsor Evaluation Group (1)**. Member

States are encouraged to agree on a representative within their respective ECOSOC **geographic regional group**.

The attached Terms of Reference describe the composition, scope of work and working modalities of the Committee as well as the required qualifications and expected time commitment of members. The current composition of the Committee is presented below.

1. **Dr. Elizabeth Moreira dos Santos**, Researcher and independent consultant, Brazil (Latin America and Caribbean), Chair;
2. **Mr. Raymond Yekeye**, Director of Programmes of the National AIDS Council, Zimbabwe (Africa);
3. **Dr. Zunyou Wu**, Chief Epidemiologist, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, China (Asia-Pacific);
4. **Ms. Sigrid Vorobjov**, Senior Researcher, National Institute for Health Development, Estonia (Eastern Europe);
5. **Professor Till Bärnighausen**, Director of the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health, Germany (Western European and Other Countries);
6. **Ms. San Patten**, Independent research and evaluation consultant (NGO Delegation);
7. **Mr. Marco Segone**, Director of the UNFPA Evaluation Office (Cosponsor Evaluation Group).

Should you require any additional information or clarifications, feel free to be in contact directly with Joel Rehnstrom, Director, Independent Evaluation ([rehnstromj@unaid.org](mailto:rehnstromj@unaid.org) or [evaluation@unaid.org](mailto:evaluation@unaid.org)).

With many thanks and best regards.

PCB Chair and Bureau

## **Annex 2: Call for Theme Submissions: Thematic Segment of the 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> PCB Meeting**

*This message is sent to the 2023 PCB Member States, PCB NGO Delegation and Cosponsors on behalf of the UNAIDS PCB Chair.*

Dear colleagues,

In follow up to the decision by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) at its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting in December 2022, we are seeking proposals for the thematic segments **at the 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> PCB meetings to be held in June and December 2024.**

In accordance with modalities for the identification of themes agreed by the Board at its 21<sup>st</sup> meeting in December 2007 (ref. PCB 27/rec.8.1, 8.3) proposed themes will be considered on the basis of four criteria: **broad relevance, responsiveness, focus, and scope for action.**

Those wishing to propose themes are kindly requested to fill out the online form by close of business on **Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023.** You are kindly requested to keep within the stated word limits when completing your submission(s).

Submission in English: [Thematic Segment Proposal Form \(English\)](#)

Submission in French: [Thematic Segment Proposal Form \(French\)](#)

All submissions will be considered by the PCB Bureau. Please note that the selection of the themes for the PCB meetings will be based on new proposals that are submitted. The decision will be made by the PCB at its 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting in December 2023 based on recommendations of the PCB Bureau. This does not, however, exclude constituencies from resubmitting themes that have yet to be adopted. For your reference, please see below **the list of themes that have been addressed by the PCB to date.**

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Adriana Hewson [hewsona@unaids.org](mailto:hewsona@unaids.org), with a copy to Samia Lounnas at [lounnass@unaids.org](mailto:lounnass@unaids.org).

### **List of themes addressed by PCB to date:**

- Access to drugs; Support to country-led responses to HIV/AIDS
- Young people and HIV/AIDS; Migration and HIV/AIDS
- Global strategy for HIV/AIDS
- 5 year evaluation of UNAIDS; Partnership agreement between UNAIDS and GFATM
- Women, gender and AIDS; Intensifying HIV Prevention
- Progress in implementing and coordination of national response; Multilateral support at country level; AIDS, Security and Humanitarian response
- Diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis (TB) among people living with HIV and how UNAIDS can work with TB communities
- The relationship between UNAIDS and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: issues of relationships with the international technical support architecture and public private partnerships
- People on the move-forced displacement and migrant populations
- Second Independent Evaluation (SIE) of UNAIDS - No thematic segment
- Linking Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services with HIV/AIDS interventions in practice
- Food HIV and Enabling Legal Environments and nutrition security and HIV: how to ensure food and nutrition security are integral parts of HIV programming



- Combination prevention: addressing the urgent need to reinvigorate HIV prevention responses globally by scaling up and achieving synergies to halt and begin to reverse the spread of the AIDS epidemic
- Non-Discrimination
- HIV, Adolescents and Youth
- Addressing socio-economic drivers of HIV through social protection
- Halving HIV among people who inject drugs
- HIV in emergency contexts
- Shared responsibility and global solidarity for an effective, equitable and sustainable HIV response for the post-2015 agenda
- The role of communities in ending AIDS by 2030
- HIV and ageing
- HIV Prevention 2020: a global partnership for delivery
- Zero discrimination in health care settings
- Ending tuberculosis and AIDS – a joint response in the era of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Delivering on SDG3: Strengthening and integrating comprehensive HIV responses into sustainable health systems for Universal Health Coverage (UHC)
- Reducing the impact of AIDS on children and youth ( December 2019)
- Cervical cancer and HIV- addressing linkages and common inequalities to save women's lives
- COVID-19 and HIV: sustaining HIV gains and building back better and fairer HIV responses
- 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 2020 and 2030 goals?
- Positive Learning: harnessing the power of education to end HIV-related stigma and discrimination and empower young people living with HIV
- HIV and men, in all their diversity, how can we get our responses back on track?
- Priority and key populations especially transgender people, and the path to 2025 targets: Reducing health inequities through tailored and systemic responses.

Best regards,  
Morten