

## UNAIDS PCB BUREAU MEETING

DATE: Friday, 13 February 2026

TIME: 11:00–15:00 (CET)

VENUE: Hybrid (in person at UNAIDS building and virtually on Zoom)

## PARTICIPANTS

**Netherlands: Representing the PCB Chair:** Ms Zina Olshanka, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Geneva;

### Bureau members for the selection process of the PCB WG

**Netherlands: Representing the PCB Chair:** Ms Carolien van Embden Andres, Senior Policy Officer; Mr Fabian Schipper, Senior Policy Officer.

**Philippines: Representing the PCB Vice-Chair:** Mr Jeffrey Valdez, First Secretary, Philippine Mission in Geneva; Dr Joel Buenaventura, Director, Bureau of International Health Cooperation of the Department of Health.

**Kenya: Representing the PCB Rapporteur:** Dr Douglas Bosire, Country support, National Syndemic Diseases Control Council, Ministry of Health; Dr Jean Gitau, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Kenya in Geneva (excused).

**Representing the PCB NGO Delegation:** Ms Keren Dunaway, Organización Llanto, Valor y Esfuerzo (LLAVES), Mr Shamin Mohamed Jr, Founder & President, LetsStopAIDS, Toronto, Canada.

**Representing the Cosponsors:** Mr Andy Seale, Advisor, World Health Organization.

**UNAIDS Secretariat:** Mr Mahesh Mahalingam, Chief of Staff; Mr Morten Ussing, Director of Governance; Ms Samia Lounnas, Senior Governance Advisor.

## MEETING AGENDA

1. **Selection of members for Working Group on UNAIDS' further transition and integration into the UN system and beyond:** *The PCB Bureau will review the nominations received and select the members and Co-Facilitators of the Working Group.*
2. **Any other business**

## Summary of the Meeting

The PCB Chair welcomed participants to the second meeting of the Bureau in 2026. The purpose of the meeting was to review the nominations received and select the members and Co-Facilitators of the Working Group on UNAIDS' further transition and integration into the UN system and beyond. The Chair recalled that, for the purpose of the selection process, each Bureau constituency (Chair, Vice-Chair, Rapporteur, NGO Delegation and CCO Chair) had designated two representatives who would participate in the meeting. These representatives had received the draft agenda and background documents, including a confidentiality agreement, in advance.

### **1. Selection of members for Working Group on UNAIDS' further transition and integration into the UN system and beyond.**

The Chair recalled the process for establishing the Working Group so far:

- At its meeting on 23 January, the Bureau had reviewed and finalized the draft Terms of Reference (TORs) for the Working Group.
- Following the intersessional approval of the TORs, a call for nominations for the Working Group was circulated to PCB members on 5 February, with a deadline of 12 February. PCB members (Member States, the PCB NGO Delegation and Cosponsors) were invited to nominate candidates for membership as well as for the Co-Facilitator roles.
- In the TORs, it is foreseen that the Working Group will be composed of 12 members and 2 Co-Facilitators, to be selected by the Bureau in accordance with the agreed criteria.
- In preparation for the meeting, the designated Bureau members were granted access to a secure platform containing candidates' CVs and biographies, together with a scoring sheet based on the criteria established in the Terms of Reference.
- A total of 28 nominations were received for members of the Working Group and 5 nominations for the Co-Facilitator roles. Bureau members had the opportunity to review all nominations submitted. The Chair noted that several late submissions had been received.

The Secretariat made remarks as follows:

- The Secretariat recalled that the scoring tool is based on the criteria outlined in the TORs approved by the PCB intersessionally and [posted online](#). The Secretariat further noted that the tool draws on positive experience from similar approaches used in previous selection processes, including for candidates to the Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee and other PCB working groups.
- The Secretariat presented the criteria for Working Group members as set out in the TORs:
  - a) **Strong understanding of the HIV response, the UNAIDS mandate and the Joint Programme's functions.**
  - b) **Demonstrated expertise in UN system governance or institutional reform.**
  - c) **Experience with organizational transitions and change management.**
  - d) **Commitment to inclusive governance and community leadership.**
  - e) **Ability to understand data and apply evidence-based and results-oriented decision-making.**

f) **Credibility, independence, and ability to work across institutional boundaries.**

- In addition to the above criteria, the two Co-Facilitators should also have the following profile, skills and experience:
  - a) Strong facilitation, negotiation and consensus building skills and proven experience in meaningfully engaging with a range of stakeholders including governments, private sector, knowledge institutions communities and civil society and the multilateral system.
  - b) Experience in organizational change of major public and/or multilateral institutions, organizational design and negotiating stakeholder acceptance and commitment.
  - c) Sound understanding of financial and human resource management in public institutions.

Independent legal counsel provided the following clarifications:

- Provisions 16–17 of the TORs set out considerations regarding potential conflicts of interest:
  - **Provision 16:** Where Working Group members and Co-Facilitators have a real or perceived conflict of interest during the work of the working group on a specific matter under discussion, they will recuse themselves from participation in those specific instances and will not engage in PCB decision-making processes.
  - **Provision 17:** The members of the Working Group nominated by the Cosponsors must be senior experts with specific multisectoral technical background on HIV and AIDS and not be involved in the governance of the Joint Programme.
- For candidates nominated by Member States, any person can be nominated, and a conflict of interest arises only if the nominated member participates in a discussion or decision where they have a direct conflict. In such cases, the member must abstain from that particular discussion.
- For Cosponsor nominations, additional sensitivities arise from the fact that Cosponsors are part of the Joint Programme and recipients of its funding, thereby heightening the probability that real or perceived conflicts of interest may occur. To mitigate this risk, the PCB adopted provision 17 of the TORs, which establishes that Cosponsor nominees must not participate in the governance of the Joint Programme. This restriction applies to current involvement, such as being a member of the CCO or speaking at PCB meetings, to recent past involvement, and to any future involvement. These enhanced safeguards are intended to ensure that Cosponsor nominees avoid situations in which conflicts of interest are likely to arise.

The Secretariat clarified as follows:

- Given the criteria, the Secretariat noted that many candidates will have had involvement with the Joint Programme and its governance at different points in time, underscoring the importance of conflict-of-interest considerations. The specific provision relating to Cosponsors reflects the Joint Programme's institutional arrangements established through the United Nations Economic and Social Council resolutions of 1994 and 1995, which provide Cosponsors with a dual role as members and implementers of the Joint Programme, while also participating in Board oversight.

- The Secretariat recalled that the Board has considered this issue in previous reform processes, including the second Independent Evaluation of UNAIDS, and taken decisions accordingly.
- The Secretariat noted the importance of considering this issue throughout the selection process along with the required expertise for the Working Group composition.

Prior to reviewing and scoring the nominations, and noting the importance of conflict of interest as practiced in the UN system, the Bureau accepted to grant flexibility to one of the candidates nominated by the Cosponsors, considering that Cosponsor's relevant technical insights of UN HIV programming and their future role in leading the HIV response within the UN system, in the understanding that they must recuse themselves from participation in the PCB in case of being selected.

The Bureau held a thorough discussion, considering all nominations, including several that were submitted late. It agreed to accept the late submissions to broaden the pool of candidates. The Bureau unanimously agreed to not consider one candidate due to a conflict of interest.

In reviewing and scoring the nominations for Members and Co-Facilitators of the Working Group, Bureau members considered the criteria outlined in the TORs, geographic and gender considerations, and the complementarity of skills and expertise among group members, as laid out in paragraph 10 of the TORs, which states that “the composition of the Working Group should collectively reflect a balance between institutional governance expertise and community-led expertise, including lived experience of people living with HIV, and key and priority populations”.

To ensure that the final membership reflected these considerations, the Bureau agreed to submit revised TORs for intersessional approval by the PCB, with two amendments to increase the number of Members and Co-Facilitators to 13 and 3 respectively.

Further to the Bureau meeting and as agreed by the PCB Bureau, the following steps were followed to finalize the composition of the Working Group.

The Permanent Representatives in Geneva of the three Bureau officers (Netherlands, Philippines and Kenya) reviewed the nominations, considering the criteria outlined in the TORs, geographic and gender considerations, and the complementarity of skills and expertise among group members, as laid out in paragraph 10 of the TORs and finalized the composition of the Working Group. The Netherlands as Chair of the Bureau relayed the final composition to the full Bureau for a consensus agreement.

Given the Bureau consensus to have 3 Co-Facilitators and 13 members of the Working Group, a revised version of the TORs would be sent for intersessional approval by the PCB Member States. The revised version will include an additional sentence in paragraph 9 of the TORs: “the Working Group will consult with relevant organizations, including the Global Fund”.

Further to the intersessional approval of the revised TORs, the Working Group will be established.

**Legal advice:** The Bureau's decision regarding the selection of one of the candidates nominated by the Cosponsors as a member of the Working Group was taken contrary to the advice of independent legal counsel, who determined that their designation, while being a representative of a Cosponsoring organization participating in the PCB and CCO, constitutes a breach of Provision 17 on conflicts of interest in the Terms of Reference.

There was no other business discussed.

## Composition of the PCB Working Group

### Co-Facilitators:

- Joe PHAAHLA (MS ECOSOC Region: Africa)
- Bob RAE (MS ECOSOC Region: WEOG)
- Fionnuala MURPHY (NGO Expert)

### Members:

- Aeneas CHUMA (MS ECOSOC Region: Africa)
- Safiatou THIAM (MS ECOSOC Region: Africa)
- Yiyun HU (MS ECOSOC Region: Asia Pacific)
- Katayoun TAYERI (MS ECOSOC Region: Asia Pacific)
- Piotr WYSOCKI (MS ECOSOC Region: Eastern Europe)
- Dirceu Bartolomeu GRECO (MS ECOSOC Region: LAC)
- Alicia Piñeirúa MENÉNDEZ (MS ECOSOC Region: LAC)
- Binod MAHANTY (MS ECOSOC Region: WEOG)
- Mamadi YILLA (MS ECOSOC Region: WEOG)
- Xavier BIGGS (NGO expert)
- Erika CASTELLANOS (NGO Expert)
- Anurita BAINS (UN Expert)
- Michel KAZATCHKINE (UN Expert)