

Reference: GOV/PCB(SS)/2026

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions in Geneva, the organizations of the United Nations system and nongovernmental organizations concerned with HIV/AIDS that are not represented on the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB), and has the honour to inform them of the arrangements below.

Further to decision points 7.3(e) and 7.5 of the [57th meeting of the PCB](#) and decision point 10.6 of the [58th meeting of the PCB](#), UNAIDS is pleased to confirm that **the Special Session of the PCB will be held fully virtually on Monday, 26 October 2026, via the Zoom platform, from 13:00 to 18:00 (CET)**, in line with the intersessionally agreed [Modalities and Procedures for the 2026 PCB Meetings \(UNAIDS/PCB \(58\)/26.3\)](#), hereinafter referred to as the “Modalities”.

Copies of the [draft annotated agenda](#), [draft timewise agenda](#), [meeting schedule](#) and [note on logistical arrangements](#) for the Special Session are attached hereto. **Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English and French.** Meeting documents are being prepared in both languages and will be posted on the [Special Session webpage](#) as they become available.

UNAIDS recalls the provisions of the [PCB Modus Operandi](#) concerning observer status. The Executive Director, in consultation with the PCB Chair, may grant this status upon a written application demonstrating an interest in the Board’s work, to a Member State of a UNAIDS Cosponsoring Organization or to an intergovernmental or nongovernmental organization. Applications should be submitted through [the online registration form](#) no later than **Friday, 16 October 2026**.

In accordance with [paragraph 35 of the Modalities](#), **access to the fully virtual Special Session is recommended to be limited as follows:**

- Six participants per delegation for each of the twenty-two PCB Member States;
- Six participants for each of the six Cosponsor seats and each of the five NGO Delegation seats; and
- Four participants per delegation for Observer Member States, intergovernmental organizations and NGO observers.

Delegations are requested to submit a note verbale (for Member States) or a note (for other participants), detailing the names and titles of all delegates, through the online registration form. To participate in the Special Session and related meetings and ensure timely access to the Secure Platform, **all delegates must register by Friday, 16 October 2026**, at <https://indico.un.org/e/SpecialSession2026>. Permanent Missions are kindly requested to inform the relevant authorities in their capitals.

Requests for exceptions to delegation limits may be submitted, with a rationale, to pcbgovernance@unaids.org for consideration on a case-by-case basis.

In accordance with the Modalities, the PCB Chair will convene an informal virtual pre-meeting on **Wednesday, 21 October 2026**, followed by virtual consultations on draft decision points on **21 and 23 October 2026**. Delegates attending the Special Session are strongly encouraged to participate in the relevant sessions. The attached [meeting schedule](#) provides full details.

Recalling paragraphs 21 and 39 of the Modalities, virtual **consultations on draft decision points and virtual drafting sessions are limited to PCB members**: the twenty-two elected Member States, Cosponsors and the NGO Delegation. Observers should work through Board members to put forward proposals on decision points or new agenda items. Members are welcome to consult observers through their constituencies.

In line with decision point 3.2 of the 40th PCB meeting (2017), and in support of Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), Member States are encouraged to prioritize gender balance within their delegations.

Paragraph 19 of the PCB Modus Operandi provides that: “Simultaneous interpretation will be provided for all PCB meetings in English and French. Simultaneous interpretation into other UN official languages may be provided on written request submitted by a member to the Secretary no later than six weeks prior to a full meeting of the PCB.”

Further aligned with the 2026 Modalities, interpretation for the Special Session will be available in the two working languages of UNAIDS, English and French. **Member States wishing to request interpretation into Arabic, Chinese, Russian or Spanish are kindly invited to cover the associated costs.** Interested Member States are requested to contact the Secretariat at pcbgovernance@unaids.org as soon as possible to discuss the technical, logistical and financial arrangements.

UNAIDS remains committed to an inclusive, respectful and safe environment for all participants and draws the attention of Missions and organizations to the [Code of Conduct applicable to UNAIDS events and gatherings](#).

UNAIDS renews to the Permanent Missions in Geneva, the organizations of the United Nations system and the nongovernmental organizations the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 29 September 2026