

UNAIDS IEOAC MEETING

Meeting with UNAIDS EXD

Date: 23 November 2022

Time: 13:00 – 14:00

Venue: UNAIDS Global Centre

PARTICIPANTS

Committee Members: Ms Agnieszka Golebiowska, Mr David Kanja, Ms Bushra Malik (Chair), Ms H el ene Rossert, & Mr Benoit de Schoutheete

MEETING AGENDA

Opening remarks

UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima welcomed the committee and invited the committee to present its findings and recommendations from its previous two meetings.

Presentation of the outcomes and recommendations of the last two meetings of the IEOAC

IEOAC Chair Bushra Malik thanked the EXD for meeting with the committee and summarized the committee's work in 2022, with a particular focus on recommendations from its last two meetings. The Chair noted that the committee met six times, all but one of the virtual, with the unusually large number of meetings stemming from the need for extensive start-up activities in its first year.

The recommendations of the committee, as presented to the EXD, are set out in a presentation attached to this report. Recommendations by the committee addressed the new ERP system being developed by the World Health Organization (and to be used by UNAIDS), risk management and internal controls, compliance and ethics, clearing outstanding oversight recommendations, internal audit and investigations, external audit, recommendations by the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit, performance reporting under the UNAIDS Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF), evaluation and the UNAIDS financial situation.

The Chair noted that the committee plans to meet three times in 2023 – in February, May and November. The committee invited the EXD to meet with the IEOAC during its May and November meetings. The Chair will present the committee's annual report to the Programme Coordinating Board at its 52nd meeting in June 2023.

Discussion and Questions and Answers

The UNAIDS EXD welcomed the committee's report and said that the work of the committee had substantially improved management and operations within the Secretariat. The EXD specifically

noted the committee's success in improving the leadership of the PCB. The committee commended UNAIDS senior management for their active and productive engagement in the work of the committee.

The EXD committed to meet with the committee at their May and November meetings in 2023. The EXD welcomed the committee's input and invited the committee to contact her, as needed, to support its work, noting that she hoped to have an "open door" policy for the committee's chair and vice-chair.

The EXD noted that accountability and transparency are paramount priorities, for UNAIDS as an organization and for the EXD personally. The EXD committed that the Secretariat will work to implement all of the committee's recommendations made to date.

The EXD and the committee discussed the challenges and opportunities facing UNAIDS. It was noted that the Joint Programme's financial situation is serious, and the EXD expressed hope that the recommendations of the Informal Task Team on the UNAIDS financial situation can serve as a roadmap for closing the resource gap.

The EXD noted that staff morale within the Secretariat remained challenging, in part due to work burdens, staffing cuts and uncertainties associated with changes made through the Secretariat's realignment process. In addition to improving the performance of the Joint Programme, these changes aim to enhance the health, safety and satisfaction of UNAIDS staff, to improve communications within the Secretariat and to ensure that the organization embodies the values of the United Nations. The EXD invited the committee to examine the success of the Secretariat's efforts to achieve an organizational culture change, including the feelings of staff regarding these changes. The committee agreed to provide recommendations regarding these issues.

Committee members noted that the committee aims to serve and support the work of the EXD and the Secretariat. The committee noted that it shared the organization's goal of catalysing progress towards ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

The EXD expressed concerns regarding the debt crisis facing many low-income countries and the effects of debt burden on the ability of countries to support the health and well-being of their peoples. Uncertainties regarding the future of international assistance for development and human rights also pose important challenges with respect to efforts to end AIDS.

Action Point:

Invite EXD at two regular meetings of IEOAC, preferably one of them that is face-to-face.