

**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE  
WORKING GROUP OF THE  
PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD  
(PCB) TO PROPOSE OPTIONS TO  
IMPLEMENT THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT  
INSPECTION UNIT (JIU) TO THE PCB**

**Additional documents for this item:**

**Action required at this meeting—the Programme Coordinating Board is invited to:**

17. Take note of the Progress Report of the Working Group to propose options to implement the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) to the PCB;
  
18. *Recalls that* PCB participants are requested to submit written comments in replacement of the debate following the 46th meeting of the PCB as agreed upon through the Intersessional procedure (UNAIDS/PCB (46)/20.3);

## Introduction

1. At its 45<sup>th</sup> session, the Programme Coordinating Board established, through its Bureau, a geographically balanced, time-bound Board working group with a non-extendable mandate to review relevant recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on the Management and Administration of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, as contained in UNAIDS/PCB (45)/19.37, that are addressed to the Board. The Joint Inspection Unit is the only independent external oversight body of the United Nations system mandated to conduct evaluations, inspections and investigations system wide.
2. The Board directed the Working Group to provide an initial report on progress at the Board's 46<sup>th</sup> meeting and to provide its final report with implementation options for the Board's consideration at its 47<sup>th</sup> meeting.
3. Pursuant to the Board's decision, the PCB Bureau on 21 February 2020 finalized terms of reference for the Working Group for consideration by the Board through intersessional decision making, with approval by the Board provided on 4 March 2020.
4. On the basis of the discussion of the PCB Bureau, drawing on the experience of the establishment of previous PCB working groups and consistent with the Board's mandate for a geographically balanced membership of the Working Group, it was determined that the Working Group would be composed of two Member States per region (for a total of 10 Member States); two representatives from the NGO delegation and two representatives from the cosponsors. Member States were invited to put forth two consensus nominees through their ECOSOC regional groups (Africa, Asia, eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe and other Group) to the PCB Bureau. The PCB Chair and Bureau sent, through the UNAIDS Secretariat, a call to PCB members to nominate representatives to the Working Group.
5. The PCB Bureau announced in April 2020 the composition of the Working Group. Members of the Working Group are set forth in Annex 1.
6. This report summarizes the Working Group's progress to date in carrying forward its mandate pursuant to the directions of the Board, towards completing its ultimate deliverable of a report to the Board at its December 2020 meeting on options for implementation of JIU recommendations that are directed to the Board.

## Progress to date

7. The PCB Chair has designated Julia Martin, senior health advisor for the United States of America, to serve as Chair of the Working Group.
8. The Working Group held its first meeting virtually on 30 April 2020. During this first meeting, the Working Group agreed on its working procedures and timeline for fulfilling the Board's mandate to recommend options for implementation of Board-focused JIU recommendations.
9. At its first meeting, the Working Group reviewed JIU Formal Recommendation 1, which provides that, "Beginning in 2020, the PCB Board should develop a long-term strategy to achieve the targets and goals of UNAIDS with regard to the 2030 Agenda." The Working Group determined that the Board has already implemented Formal Recommendation 1, noting the Board's decision point 3.2 from its December meeting, which requests the Executive Director to:

- a. “Undertake a review of the current strategy and its implementation, and the results obtained;
- b. “Convene a multistakeholder consultation, with participation of Member States, to present the results of the review and consider the strategic priorities beyond 2021;
- c. “Present, for consideration, by the Board at its 46<sup>th</sup> meeting in June 2020, options, and their respective processes and timelines, to ensure that the UNAIDS strategy remains ambitious, visionary, and evidence-based beyond 2021; and
- d. “Consult the United Nations Secretary-General to consider options for the timing of the UN General Assembly High-Level meeting on HIV and AIDS and advise the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board in June 2020.”

Although the Board acknowledged that action has been taken by the PCB on Recommendation 1, it was agreed that the Working Group would track progress in developing the new UNAIDS strategy to ensure full implementation of the JIU recommendation on strategic planning.

10. The Working Group agreed that its second meeting will take place virtually in early June 2020. During the second meeting, the Working Group will review and consider implementation options for the following JIU recommendations:

- *Formal Recommendation 3:* By the beginning of 2021, the Programme Coordinating Board should revise its Modus Operandi to clarify its roles and responsibilities and imbed oversight and accountability mechanisms in the oversight of UNAIDS and the Secretariat.
- *Informal Recommendation 4:* The relevance and validity of the guiding principles [for cosponsoring organizations] should be re-evaluated, and stronger linkages between the PCB and the governing bodies of the cosponsors should be explored.
- *Informal Recommendation 7:* The PCB is encouraged to open a dialogue with the United Nations Secretary-General on [the term limits of the Executive Director and explicit performance expectations for the position] to assist in providing more clarity and transparency on its expectations of UNAIDS, and more certainty in succession planning.

11. The third meeting of the Working Group will take place in September, with the hope of having this meeting face to face, if feasible based on public health guidance. During the third meeting, the Working Group will review and consider implementation options for the following JIU recommendations:

- *Formal Recommendation 5:* The Programme Coordinating Board should consider creating an independent and external oversight committee to provide independent expert advice to the Programme Coordinating Board and to the Executive Director in fulfilling their governance and oversight responsibilities.
- *Informal Recommendation 5:* [The Programme Coordinating Board should bring further definition to its responsibilities] in handling allegations against the Executive Director or any other official handling oversight issues (e.g. ethics officers, investigators, auditors, other senior officials, etc.) that could pose a conflict of interest in handling such issues.
- *Informal Recommendation 6:* The PCB may wish to revise Paragraph 5 of the Modus Operandi, which covers the functions of the PCB to establish [the practice of reports of the auditors and data and information on ethics activities and investigations being more critically assessed by the PCB.
- *Informal Recommendation 17:* In fulfilling the responsibility as chief representative of the financial statements of UNAIDS, the Executive Director should meet with the External Auditor at least once a year. In addition, the External Audit should present

his or her report directly to the PCB and answer any questions or concerns that the PCB members may have, which will also enhance the oversight responsibility of the PCB.

- *Informal Recommendation 18:* The Inspectors suggest that the PCB and the Executive Director review and determine the appropriate level of audit coverage, in consultation with the Internal and External Auditors, while respecting their independence.
  - *Informal Recommendation 19:* A report to the PCB should contain a status matrix indicating the acceptance or rejection of the JIU recommendations and the implementation status of previous recommendations, in order to enhance transparency, accountability, and system-wide coherence.
12. The Working Group will brief the PCB on its work to date in early October 2020. During this briefing, the Working Group will share its initial findings and recommended options for implement of JIU's PCB-directed recommendations and also obtain Board members' feedback on these findings and recommendations.
  13. The fourth and final scheduled meeting of the Working Group will take place in the second half of October. During this meeting, the Working Group will review and address the feedback provided at the PCB briefing, revisit any previous decisions made in light of the PCB feedback, provide guidance to the writer on the development of a draft of the Working Group's final report and also plan for the presentation to the Board of its findings and recommendations at the December 2020 Board meeting.
  14. A first draft of the Working Group's final report will be circulated to Working Group members on or about 1 November 2020 and finalized and posted on or before 15 November 2020 in advance of the Board's 47<sup>th</sup> session.
  15. If needed to ensure the Working Group's ability meet this timeline, additional virtual meetings, in addition to the four scheduled meetings, will be scheduled

## Conclusion

16. The JIU recommendations offer an important opportunity for the Board's reflection to strengthen strategic and operational planning, governance and oversight and accountability. The COVID-19 pandemic has required flexibility and innovation on the part of the PCB Bureau to move forward on the Board's mandate to identify options to implement PCB-focused JIU recommendations. The Working Group has rapidly taken on board this task from the Board and developed a clear workplan and timeline to deliver clear options for implementation for the Board's consideration at its December 2020 meeting.

## Proposed Decision Points

### **The Programme Coordinating Board is invited to:**

17. Take note of the progress report of the Working Group to propose options to implement the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) to the PCB;
18. *Recalls that* PCB participants are requested to submit written comments in replacement of the debate following the 46th meeting of the PCB as agreed upon through the Intersessional procedure (UNAIDS/PCB (46)/20.3).

Annex 1:

## **PCB WORKING GROUP**

**Working Group of the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB)  
to propose options to implement the recommendations of the  
Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) to the PCB**

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### **List of Participants**

**MEMBER STATES - ETATS MEMBRES****African States - Etats d'Afrique****Liberia - Libéria**

Mr Abraham Kurian Kamara  
Second Secretary/Vice Consul, Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland

**Namibia - Namibie**

Ms Xungileni Chitundu  
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Namibia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland

**Asian States - Etats d'Asie****India - Inde**

Mr Sadre Alam  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland

**Thailand – Thaïlande**

Ms Kanyarat Vejjajiva  
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland

**Eastern European States - Etats d'Europe orientale****Belarus - Bélarus**

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Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland

**Russian Federation – Fédération de Russie**

Mr Eduard Salakhov  
Health Attaché, Counselor, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland

**Latin American and Caribbean States - Etats d'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes****Brazil - Brésil**

Mr Victor Campos Cirne  
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**El Salvador – El Salvador**

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Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland

**Western European and Other States - Etats d'Europe occidentale et autres Etats**

**Canada - Canada**

Mr Tim Poletti  
Health Advisor, Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland

**France - France**

Mr François Gave  
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**COSPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS – ORGANISMES COPARRAINANTS**

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD)**

Mr Ludo Bok  
Manager SDGs and UNAIDS HIV, Health, & Development Group, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**International Labour Organization (ILO) – Organisation internationale du travail (OIT)**

Ms Shauna Olney  
Chief Gender, Equality and Diversity & ILO AIDS Branch, International Labour Organization (ILO)

**REPRESENTATIVES OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS/PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV – REPRESENTANTS DES ORGANISATIONS NON GOUVERNEMENTALES / PERSONNES VIVANT AVEC LE VIH**

**Europe - l'Europe**

Mr Alexander Pastoors  
Representative international affairs, HIV Vereniging Nederland, Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Latin America and the Caribbean - Etats d'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes**

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