



## UNAIDS PCB BUREAU MEETING

**DATE:** Friday, 25 October 2024

**TIME:** 13:30-15:30 (CET)

**VENUE:** Hybrid (in-person at the UNAIDS building and virtually on Teams)

### PARTICIPANTS

**Kenya: Representing the PCB Chair:** H.E. Mr James Ndirangu Waweru, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Kenya in Geneva; Dr Douglas Bosire, Country Support, NSDCC, Ministry of Health.

**Brazil: Representing the PCB Vice-Chair:** H.E. Mrs Cecília Kiku Ishitani, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva; Ms Débora Antônia Lobato Cândido, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva; Mr Artur Kalichman, Acting Director, Department of HIV/AIDS, Brazilian Ministry of Health.

**Netherlands: Representing the PCB Rapporteur:** Ms Carolien van Embden Andres, Senior Policy Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Representing the PCB NGO Delegation:** Mr Gastón Devisich, Community Engagement Representative, Fundación Huésped, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mr Shamin Mohamed Jr, Founder & President, LetsStopAIDS, Toronto, Canada; Mr Xavier Biggs, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Jamaica AIDS Support for Life.

**UNESCO: Representing the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations:** Mr David Sunderland, Senior Project Officer, Health and Education, UNESCO; Ms Fátima Barbero, Programme Specialist, UNESCO.

**UNAIDS Secretariat:** Mr Efraim Gomez, Director External Relations; Mr Morten Ussing, Director Governance; Ms Samia Lounnas, Senior Governance Advisor; Ms Adriana Hewson, Governance Officer; Ms Maya Salama, Governance Officer; Ms Awino Pauller Musyoka, Governance Intern.

### MEETING AGENDA

1. **Update on the preparations for the upcoming 55th PCB meeting (10–12 December 2024, Nairobi, Kenya):** *The Bureau will receive brief updates on key items of the regular and thematic segments at the upcoming PCB meeting.*

2. **Update on the implementation of the UNAIDS 2024–2025 evaluation plan:** *The Director of Evaluation will present to the Bureau the semi-annual update on the implementation of the UNAIDS 2024–2025 evaluation plan.*
3. **Selection of members for the Evaluation Expert Advisory Committee (EAC):** *The Bureau will review the CVs and confirm the proposed composition of the EAC for 2025 for agreement at the upcoming PCB meeting.*
4. **Any other business**

## Summary of the Meeting

The PCB Chair welcomed the Bureau members to the second PCB Bureau meeting to prepare for the 55th PCB meeting, scheduled for 10–12 December 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to provide Bureau members with an update on the preparations of the 55th PCB meeting agenda items by the relevant UNAIDS Secretariat focal point, as well as updates on the implementation of the UNAIDS 2024–2025 evaluation plan and selection of members for the Expert Advisory Committee. The Chair recalled that the Bureau members had received the draft agenda and background documents in advance of the meeting.

1. **Update on the preparations for the upcoming 55th PCB meeting (10–12 December 2024, Nairobi, Kenya)**

The relevant UNAIDS Secretariat focal points provided the updates on the preparation of agenda items as follows:

### Agenda item 1.2: Report of the 54th PCB meeting

The Secretariat provided the update as follows:

- The report of the previous meeting is a summary of the presentations and discussions held at the 54th PCB meeting in June 2024. It was cleared by the PCB Bureau and posted online on 11 October 2024 in accordance with the Modus Operandi.
- As a reminder, this report includes a summary of all interventions made in plenary, as well as written statements submitted through the secure platform, as agreed in the intersessional paper on [modalities for the 2024 PCB meetings](#).
- The PCB is invited to adopt the report of the 54th PCB meeting.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the update.

### Agenda items 1.3 & 2: Report of the Executive Director and Leadership in the AIDS response

The Secretariat provided the update as follows:

- It is expected that the Executive Director will address the latest developments in the AIDS response, as well as some of the follow-ups from the latest PCB meeting, drawing on insights from the Global AIDS Report released in July during the International AIDS Conference in Munich. The Executive Director will also provide updates on the development process for the next Global AIDS Strategy, discuss the ongoing work of the high-level panel tasked with reviewing the operating model of the Joint Programme, and address the ongoing funding situation.
- As is practice, an outline of the Executive Director’s report will be posted one week in advance of the PCB meeting. The full report of the Executive Director will be posted following delivery at the 54th PCB meeting.
- For the Leadership in the AIDS response agenda item, the Executive Director invites a high-level speaker to provide a different angle on the AIDS response.
- The format of this agenda item at the 55th PCB meeting will be a panel discussion with three panellists on the topic of long-acting ARV for HIV treatment and prevention.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat and expressed their support for the chosen topic for the Leadership in the AIDS response item.

#### **Agenda item 1.4: Report by the NGO representative**

The NGO Delegation provided the update as follows:

- The NGO report is traditionally presented in December with a focus on critical issues impacting HIV response, particularly concerning communities and civil society.
- The title of this year’s report is “Breaking the chains: supporting community leadership and human rights for a sustainable HIV response”. The report highlights the role of community leadership in addressing challenges faced by communities most affected by HIV, the impact of anti-gender and anti-rights movements, and the priorities needed to strengthen community leadership in the fight to end AIDS by 2030.
- The consultation process engaged key informants (civil society leaders, representatives from UNAIDS and Cosponsors) through interviews, regional dialogues, focus groups, and an online survey. A civil society expert panel was formed to support this process and review the drafts for the report.
- Key messages:
  - Recognize that community leadership is essential for an effective HIV response and call for investment in community-led monitoring to strengthen advocacy and improve health interventions.
  - Funding should support community leadership beyond service delivery, with flexible, context-specific, and domestic funding options. New funding sources, such as digital currencies and global public investments, are necessary to secure sustainable resources.

- Implement inclusive, rights-based frameworks that empower key populations, promote collaboration across movements, and protect communities' safety.
- The next Global AIDS Strategy should build on existing initiatives to centre community voices and leadership across all aspects of the HIV response.

The Bureau thanked the NGO delegation for the update and looked forward to the full report in December.

### **Agenda item 3: Follow-up to the thematic segment from the 53rd PCB meeting**

The Secretariat provided the update as follows:

- The report is a summary of the discussions and presentations from the thematic segment at the 54th PCB meeting on “Sustaining the gains of the global HIV response to 2030 and beyond”.
- The report is drafted by an independent report writer and submitted to the PCB Bureau for review and clearance. It is accompanied by proposed draft decision points developed jointly by the Secretariat technical and Governance teams based on the PCB thematic segment discussions and the key recommendations in the background note, supplemented by comments received from Bureau members. The summary report, including the draft decisions, is expected to be cleared by the PCB Chair and the Bureau before they are posted on the PCB website.
- The PCB Bureau received the draft report and proposed decision points on 21 October 2024 as part of the background materials for this meeting.
- The global AIDS pandemic is at a critical juncture. Immediate actions are needed to accelerate and broaden the progress achieved by the HIV response and to transform the response in ways that will allow to achieve disease control and sustain progress in the long term, beyond 2030. This crossroads refers to both the epidemiological trajectory, the societal and human rights challenges, and the fiscal and financing tensions for the HIV response.
- To achieve sustainability, there is the need to bring down new infections, AIDS-related deaths, and stigma and discrimination, and ensure that all people living with HIV have access to treatment and care on a lifelong basis. Ensuring that every aspect of the HIV response is on track requires political, financial, and programmatic sustainability.
- Political sustainability entails strong and shared leadership and commitment to supporting innovations, policies, and the critical investments that can drive the HIV response forward at global, regional, and national levels, in partnership with communities and organizations of people at risk of, affected by, and living with HIV.
- Programmatic sustainability involves applying the lessons from over four decades of HIV response, including multidisciplinary research and evidence that draws together the social and biomedical sciences to achieve high-impact outcomes; as well as the adoption of transformations to the HIV response as its own trajectory evolves, and

robust and well-resourced health systems that lead towards universal health coverage (UHC).

- Financial sustainability means ensuring adequate, sustainable, and equitable domestic and external funding to boost and sustain the impact of the HIV response in the long term. That includes deploying country-tailored financing solutions alongside necessary global solidarity and support to meet diverse needs, recognizing that investing in HIV leads to substantial health, social, and economic gains for all people.
- Key recommendations:
  - Accelerate the work towards long-term sustainability planning in all aspects of the HIV response, advancing integration of different dimensions of the response, especially in relation to the health sector and UHC, and other development sectors that affect HIV outcomes;
  - With participation from communities and partners, advance the development of country-owned HIV-response sustainability roadmaps that enable effective, context-specific, people-centred, integrated HIV services for equitable and sustained impact;
  - Strengthen political mobilization to sustain the HIV response, and make sustainability a central component of the long-term vision beyond 2030 and the next Global AIDS Strategy;

Bureau members thanked the team and the Secretariat for their work on the follow-up report. They emphasized that the paper sets the stage for discussions on the development of the next Global AIDS Strategy and highlighted the significance of the recommendations in ensuring continued progress in the global HIV response toward 2030 and beyond.

The Chair requested the Bureau members to provide their written comments on the summary report including the draft decisions by the deadline of 30 October 2024. The Chair will circulate the updated summary report, taking the Bureau's input into account, for information before posting it on the PCB website.

#### **Agenda item 4: Findings of the mid-term review of the Global AIDS Strategy 2021–2026**

Angeli Achrekar, Deputy Executive Director, UNAIDS, provided the following update:

- Two previous decisions of the PCB requested the Board to begin considering the development of the next Global AIDS Strategy and next Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF):
  - Decision point 7.5 from the 50th PCB meeting: *Requests the Executive Director to establish a working group, for the development of the next UBRAF, to be operational by January 2025;*
  - Decision point 6.5 from the 53rd PCB meeting: *Requests the Executive Director and the Committee of the Cosponsoring Organizations to continue to ensure that the Joint Programme remains sustainable, resilient and fit-for-purpose, by*

*revisiting the operating model, supported by external expert facilitation and through appropriate consultations, including with the PCB members and participants, reporting back at the June 2025 PCB meeting with recommendations which take into account the context of financial realities and risks to the Joint Programme and relevant recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit, recognizing the importance of the findings of the mid-term review of the Global AIDS Strategy and development of a long-term strategy to 2030 and beyond, in aligning the Joint Programme.*

- The purpose of the paper is to present the findings of the mid-term review of the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 and to contribute to the development of the next Strategy, including laying out Board engagement with the process and the related development of the 2027-2031 Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework.
- Structure of the paper:
  - o Findings of the mid-term review of the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 and implications for strategic priorities beyond 2026
  - o Development of the next Global AIDS Strategy
  - o 2027-2031 Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF)
- Section 1: Findings of the mid-term review of the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 and implications for strategic priorities beyond 2026
  - o In July 2024, UNAIDS published the mid-term review of the 2021-2026 Global AIDS Strategy as part of the annual Global AIDS Update, “The Urgency of Now: AIDS at a Crossroads.”
  - o The report underscores significant progress in the global HIV response but highlights that we are still far from meeting the 2025 targets. 9.3 million people still lack access to HIV treatment all over the world including in Africa, and 1.3 million new HIV infections globally and rising in regions outside of sub-Saharan Africa.
  - o The report also highlighted stalled progress in HIV prevention and in the societal enablers (addressing criminalizing laws, stigma and discrimination and gender inequalities). These are the areas where the least progress has been achieved.
  - o If HIV programmes remain on their current course, UNAIDS projections show that about 46 million people will be living with HIV in 2050. The primary objective is to swiftly reduce the numbers of new infections and AIDS-related deaths to levels that approach or achieve disease control – and to do so in ways that prevent a future resurgence of the epidemic.
- Section 2: Development of the next Global AIDS Strategy
  - o In 2025, UNAIDS will develop the next Global AIDS Strategy for adoption at the December PCB, building on the lessons learned and gaps identified in the mid-term review.
  - o The Strategy will also build on the work undertaken in 2024 by the global task team developing the recommended targets that will ensure countries significantly

reduce new infections and AIDS-related deaths by 2030 and ensure sustainability post 2030.

- The Strategy will be developed through a well-articulated, inclusive consultation process involving the stakeholders in the AIDS response, including the PCB members. The scoping consultations will begin in the early part of 2025 and aim to share an outline of the new Strategy with the PCB for the June 2025 meeting. At least two multistakeholder consultations will be organized in the spring of 2025 and the fall of 2025. The final Strategy will be submitted by December 2025. PCB members will be offered the opportunity to contribute to the consultations in each phase of the Strategy development process.
- Section 3: 2027–2031 UBRAF
  - 2027-2031 UBRAF Development Process
    - The Global AIDS Strategy will be accompanied by a new UBRAF to operationalize the work of the Joint Programme in support of the new Global AIDS Strategy for the period 2027-2031.
    - The process for the development of the 2027-2031 UBRAF will be done in parallel with the Global AIDS Strategy.
    - Working Group on the development of the next UBRAF to be established after the June 2025 PCB when the inputs from the high-level panel and external evaluation have been provided. Working Group to be operational no later than September 2025.
  - Inputs
    - High-level panel panel on a resilient and fit-for-purpose UNAIDS Joint Programme in the context of the sustainability of the HIV response recommendations
    - External Evaluation of the role of the UNAIDS Joint Programme in the AIDS Response (2022-2024)
- Responding to Bureau members, the Secretariat gave the following update on the high-level panel on a resilient and fit-for-purpose UNAIDS Joint Programme in the context of the sustainability of the HIV response:
  - The membership of the high-level panel has been established, featuring co-chairs from the United States and Kenya, and a civil society representative. The panel aims for robust representation from diverse global stakeholders, with significant input from the UNAIDS Executive Director and the ILO, who will represent the CCO.
  - Three sub-groups have been formed:
    - Programs
    - Partnerships
    - Resources
  - An initial meeting of the high-level panel has already taken place, with a hybrid meeting scheduled for mid-November in Lilongwe, back-to-back with the Global

Fund Board meeting, which will further develop the initial inputs from these subgroups.

- There was also a productive discussion during a hybrid Joint Programme half-day retreat held on 24 October with the global coordinators, with reflections on the ongoing work and progress of the high-level panel.
- The panel is expected to have provided a set of recommendations on the operating model of the Joint Programme by June 2025, which will be received by the Executive Director and the CCO. Based on these recommendations, a proposal for revisions to the operating model will be prepared by the Executive Director and the CCO for presentation to the PCB in June, where it will be considered by the board.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for these updates. The Chair requested the Secretariat to provide regular updates on the work of the high-level panel on a resilient and fit-for-purpose UNAIDS Joint Programme in the context of the sustainability of the HIV response to the Bureau.

#### **Agenda item 5: HIV in prisons and other closed settings**

Ehab Salah, UNAIDS Focal Point, Advisor Prisons and HIV, UNODC, provided the update as follows:

- In December 2021, the 49th PCB meeting addressed the issue of HIV in prisons and other closed settings. At that meeting, the Board requested the Joint Programme to report on progress towards the 2025 Global Targets for HIV/AIDS as related to people in prison.
- This report notes that available data show limited progress towards the 2025 targets for this population, who remain at higher risk of HIV infection.
- The report presents:
  - recent epidemiological data on HIV, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections in prison settings;
  - an update on the availability of evidence-based interventions and the various challenges in ensuring access to these interventions among people in prison;
  - the Joint Programme's initiatives, strategies and tools since 2021.
- In 2023, UNAIDS estimated that the global median prevalence of HIV among people in prison is 1.3% (70 reporting countries), ranging from 0.6% and to 2.7%. This prevalence rate is nearly twice as high as among adults aged 15–49 in the general population.
- The consultation process involved close collaboration with the UNAIDS Secretariat and relevant Cosponsors, including UNDP, WHO, and other stakeholders in the Joint Programme. These consultations ensured that the recommendations reflect a comprehensive, multisectoral approach to addressing HIV in prisons, based on the work of countries. Additionally, community-based organizations and civil society groups provided input on the challenges faced by key populations in closed settings. This collaborative effort has ensured that the paper includes a diverse range of perspectives, with a focus on improving service delivery and health outcomes for people in prison.



- Turning to the challenges and achievements, the report concludes that the availability and coverage of comprehensive HIV services within prisons still face major hurdles. There has been a lack of political will to reform laws to address health and HIV in prison settings, and we have even observed setbacks, especially in terms of harm reduction services in some countries.
- Challenges
  - Limited data and monitoring
  - Structural and legal barriers
  - Lack of political will
  - Lack of continuity of care and limited access of CSOs to prison populations
- Achievements
  - UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030
  - Support for national policies
  - Progress in women's health in prisons
  - Increase in HIV prevention measures
  - Development of gender-specific tools
- Key recommendations
  - Need to establish standardized tools and indicators for the routine collection of disaggregated data specific to people in prison, reporting to UNAIDS to track progress towards the 2025 targets and towards ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.
  - Need to advocate for prison health among policymakers and legislators to ensure sustained progress in addressing HIV in prison settings including adequate funding for improved screening upon admission to prison, comprehensive HIV services and health monitoring in prisons, improved linkage to care after release, and improved collaboration between law enforcement, prison administrations, prison and public health departments, and community-led services.
  - Need to promote criminal justice reform and support member states in eliminating discriminatory laws against key populations, reducing pre-trial detention periods, and implementing alternatives to imprisonment for petty and non-violent offences including drug use, as well as implementing evidence-based prevention, ensuring equal access to treatment and care, improving overall prison conditions.

Kenya highlighted the significance of this topic for Kenya, noting that a field visit in Nairobi in December has been proposed to complement the agenda item. This visit will include a tour of a harm reduction program within a Government of Kenya prison, offering valuable insights into the HIV situation in prisons and other closed settings, thereby enriching discussions at the PCB.

The Bureau thanked UNODC for this presentation. Bureau members stressed the need to focus the recommendations and draft decisions on priority actions on HIV in prisons and other closed settings. Bureau members noted the importance of this topic in drawing attention to the specific needs of the least visible key populations.

## **Agenda item 7: Next PCB meetings**

The UNAIDS Secretariat provided the update as follows:

- This paper includes the proposed dates for the 60th and 61st PCB meetings in 2027, along with the proposed thematic proposals for the PCB meetings in 2025.
- Pre-determined criteria for selecting the proposals:
  - Relevance
  - Scope
- These proposals will be the subject of the discussion at the next PCB Bureau meeting on Monday, 4 November 2024.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the update.

## **Agenda item 8: Election of officers**

The UNAIDS Secretariat provided the update as follows:

- This paper will include the proposed composition of the PCB Bureau for 2025 for approval at the 55th PCB meeting. Brazil, the current Vice-Chair, will be the PCB Chair for 2025. Other office holders are by written expression of interest. The Secretariat received a written expression of interest on 16 October for the position of Vice-Chair from the Netherlands.
- This paper will also include the composition of the NGO delegation for approval at the 55th PCB. There are five vacancies for 2025, and the NGO delegation is in the process of finalizing the recruitment process.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the update.

## **Agenda item 9: Thematic Segment**

The UNAIDS Secretariat gave an update on the preparation for the thematic segment on *Addressing inequalities in children and adolescents to end AIDS by 2030*:

- The thematic segment will provide an opportunity for the PCB to discuss inequities and poor outcomes that are barriers to progress in HIV prevention, treatment and support services towards ending AIDS in children and adolescents by 2030. In particular the thematic session will:
  - Present an overview of progress towards global targets, persistent gaps and challenges in the response to AIDS in children and adolescents and showcase opportunities to focus on children and adolescents.
  - Identify strategies, innovations and programme successes to accelerate HIV prevention, treatment, protection, care and support for pregnant women, children and adolescents.

- Showcase notable program successes and factors that led to those drawing in part from the experiences of the Global Alliance countries.
- Suggest priority actions for the near future.
- 55th PCB Thematic Segment Working Group
  - First meeting: 26 September 2024 – annotated outline of background note and agenda presented, and inputs received.
  - Second meeting: 17 October 2024 – draft full background note presented and agenda with suggested speakers, and inputs received.
- Deadline for submitting country case studies and best practices: **25 October 2024**. 7 case studies received so far. Some of these will appear in the background note and the rest in a conference room paper.
- Background note and agenda will be finalized by end October / early November.
- Scope of the topic and chapters of the background note
- This background note will address three questions:
  - What are the inequalities, gaps and barriers to access for children and adolescents?
  - What works to close the gaps at national, regional and global levels and accelerate progress to meet the 2030 targets?
  - How do we support countries to bring these interventions to the fore and scale them for impact?
- Chapters:
  - Epidemiology and global health context
  - Inequalities preventing progress in the HIV response for children and adolescents
  - Different populations of focus (girls, boys, orphans, carers etc)
  - Needs, gaps and challenges in:
    - Health systems
    - Structural inequalities
    - Leadership and resources
  - What works in the HIV response for children and adolescents
  - Health systems and services (Integration, Preventing vertical transmission, Testing babies and children and linking to treatment, Meeting the needs of adolescents)
  - Structural inequalities/Environmental factors
  - Leadership, political will, resources
- Recommendations
- Draft agenda summary
  - Opening session: keynote addressed from Executive Directors, Minister of Health, and young mother living with HIV
  - Setting the scene: highlights of the background note; epi update
  - Addressing remaining barriers to eliminating vertical transmission of HIV
  - Addressing inequalities in access to treatment and care services for children and adolescents
  - Resources, Policies, Health

Kenya noted that the PCB is being held in the African region, where children, adolescents, and young people are among the populations most affected and often left behind in the HIV response. Several proposed field visit locations, scheduled for the day before the PCB convenes, specifically address inequalities that heighten the epidemic's impact on children and adolescents. Insights from these visits are expected to enrich discussions on the final day of the PCB, when this thematic segment will be addressed.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the update on the thematic segment and noted that they looked forward to the discussions in December on this important and timely topic.

Following consideration of the updates on the preparations for the upcoming 55th PCB meeting, the Bureau thanked the agenda item focal points for their comprehensive presentations and updates and looked forward to the posting of the final papers and the discussions to be held at the PCB meeting on these important topics. The Bureau members reiterated the importance of posting all PCB papers 4 weeks ahead of the PCB meeting to enable PCB stakeholders to prepare optimally for the meeting and reach consensus in the decision-making in accordance with the PCB Modus Operandi.

**2. Update on the implementation of the UNAIDS 2024–2025 evaluation plan:** *The Director of Evaluation will present to the Bureau the semi-annual update on the implementation of UNAIDS 2024–2025 evaluation plan.*

Adan Ruiz Villalba, Director of Independent Evaluation, jointly with Jyothi Raja Nilambur Kovilakam, Senior Advisor of Independent Evaluation, presented to the Bureau the semi-annual update on the evaluation of the UNAIDS 2024–2025 evaluation plan as follows:

- Since 2019, when the Board approved the UNAIDS Evaluation Policy and the establishment of an independent evaluation function, an annual report has been presented to the PCB in December. This is the fifth annual report on evaluation to be presented to the PCB.
- The 2024–2025 evaluation plan has been developed based on the Evaluation Policy, with the Global AIDS Strategy and the UBRAF as the overall conceptual framework; all evaluations in 2024-2025 are mapped against these.
- The topics, scope and key questions of evaluations were identified through a consultative process involving the UNAIDS Cosponsors and Secretariat. Evaluation topics are then discussed with the Expert Advisory Committee and subsequently with the Cosponsor Evaluation Offices.
- Based on that process, there are three main types of evaluations: those related to programmatic responses, partnerships, and institutional dimensions.
- In 2024, two evaluations and one review have been completed:
  - Joint evaluation on the SDG 3 Global Action Plan (GAP), led by WHO: Thirteen agencies signed on to the GAP, with UNAIDS providing both technical and financial support. UNAIDS also participated in a country case study in Nigeria,

collaborating closely with WHO country offices. The finalized evaluation report has been disseminated to all signatory agencies. The evaluation recommends either sunsetting the GAP initiative within 6-12 months or developing a new framework that emphasizes primary health care and health financing. Most agencies have expressed a preference for the first option, which involves closing out the program. The evaluation findings highlighted challenges in interagency engagement and sustainability at the country level, along with a decline in leadership engagement. Despite these challenges, there is strong evidence supporting the need for multilateral agency collaboration. The management response to the evaluation is currently under review by the executive teams of all thirteen signatory agencies of the GAP.

- Midterm evaluation of the CDC-UNAIDS cooperative agreement from 2021 to 2026, led by UNAIDS in collaboration with CDC: The midterm evaluation spans from 2021 to 2026. This evaluation includes case studies from ten country offices. Currently, the evaluation report is undergoing internal clearance from CDC, with the final report expected by December 2024. The assessment found progress in outcomes; however, it also highlighted five strategic recommendations due to the varied results observed across different countries. Development of the management response to these findings is ongoing.
- Review of UNAIDS evaluations and assessments (2020 – 2024) concerning the role of the Joint Programme in achieving and sustaining gains: This review serves as preparatory work for a full evaluation scheduled for 2025. It encompasses 21 evaluations conducted by the UNAIDS evaluation office, as well as other assessments, including the 2023 MOPAN assessment. A coordination management group has overseen this review process, consisting of members from the Secretariat, Cosponsors, and an Expert Advisory Committee member. The draft report is currently under review by the management group, and final findings will be shared with the Secretariat and Expert Advisory Committee this month. The final report is expected to be presented to the PCB in December, with an update on the Joint Programme evaluation anticipated for the PCB in 2024.
- Upcoming evaluations in 2025:
  - Next steps for the Joint Programme evaluation.
  - Community system strengthening evaluation (initially planned for 2024 but rescheduled for 2025).
  - Alternatives to Country Offices: Multi-country offices and HIV advisors in the RC Office.
- Looking forward, the Evaluation Office has continued implementing the budget, with over 75% already utilized for staff and activity costs. Full implementation by December is expected.
- Future priorities include a peer review of the evaluation function, following the United Nations Evaluation Group Peer Review model. This will assess the evaluation function, aligning with a broader culture of evaluation and decentralizing evaluation activities. New evaluation methods, including behavioral science, complexity science, and data visualization, will also be adopted.

- The Evaluation Office reports directly to the UNAIDS Board, alongside an Expert Advisory Committee, which has convened twice virtually this year with one more meeting planned in October.
- The PCB is asked to take note of progress made on evaluation implementation and the upcoming peer review initiation for 2025. Finally, maintaining the current effective oversight and governance arrangement is recommended, given the Expert Advisory Committee’s strong representation across the Joint Programme’s constituencies.

Responding to a question from the Bureau and further to the meeting, the Evaluation Office provided in writing to Bureau members the following update on two Evaluations from the UNAIDS Evaluation office workplan 2024 – 2025:

1. **The contribution of the Joint Programme to UN Sustainable Development Corporation Frameworks, planned in 2024–2025:** A UN System Wide Evaluation on derivation, alignment, and UNCT configuration, led by UNSDG System-Wide Evaluation Office is in progress since July 2024. UNAIDS Evaluation Office will be engaged in this evaluation and will contribute technically.
2. **UNAIDS Partnership with the Global Fund and PEPFAR, planned in 2025:** UNAIDS Evaluation Office approached the Global Fund with this proposal to co-create this evaluation and feedback is yet to be received. An opportunity as a way forward for this proposed evaluation is to include partnerships as part of the Joint Programme Evaluation, 2025. The Evaluation Office will update the Bureau as relevant.

The Bureau congratulated Adan Ruiz Villalba on his appointment as Director of Independent Evaluation and noted his rich expertise. The Bureau expressed support for the evaluation report and the planned peer review and thanked the Evaluation Office for its work.

### 3. Selection of the Expert Advisory Committee (EAC)

Adan Ruiz Villalba, Director of Independent Evaluation, provided the update as follows:

- The current composition of the Committee was approved by the PCB at its 53rd meeting in December 2023. Two of the current Committee members, nominated by Eastern Europe and the PCB NGO delegation, were exceptionally reappointed for one year and will complete their terms at the end of 2024.
- A call for nominations for two new members was issued on 10 July, and two reminders were sent, with a deadline of 15 September.
- The Bureau received the CV of the NGO delegation’s nominee as part of the background documents for this meeting. However, no nomination had been received from the Eastern Europe group.
- The Bureau’s role is to review the nominations received for members of the Expert Advisory Committee on evaluation and ensure the Committee has the required technical expertise and is geographically representative and gender balanced as per the terms of reference of the Committee. The PCB Bureau shall then propose the membership of the Committee for approval at the 55th PCB meeting.

- One member of the Expert Advisory Committee has notified the Evaluation Office that they are recusing themselves from their duties for six months due to a potential conflict of interest. There will be discussions held within the regional group on the way forward on this.

The Secretariat clarified the following:

- The 2019 Evaluation Policy adopted by the PCB at its 44th session (document UNAIDS/PCB (44)/19.7) decided to establish an Expert Advisory Committee on Evaluation whose mission is to “provide advice and guidance on the UNAIDS evaluation function” (paragraph 57 of the adopted policy). This committee is “an independent, external body which reports to the Board”.
- The composition of the committee is defined by paragraph 58 of the adopted policy: “The Committee shall consist of up to seven technically strong members who are nominated by Member States (5), the PCB NGO delegation (1) and Cosponsor Evaluation Group (1).”
- As the committee is an independent committee responsible for advising the PCB and the ED on the evaluation policy, its members cannot belong to a PCB member delegation or have a hierarchical or collaborative link with a PCB member delegation. The members appointed by the Member States may not belong to the delegation of a Member State of the PCB, nor to a ministerial department responsible for determining, alone or in collaboration, the positions taken by this delegation during the PCB.
- Similarly, the members appointed by the NGO delegation may not belong to one of the five NGOs that sit on the PCB, nor to an organization or entity determining, alone or in collaboration, the position adopted by the NGO delegation to the PCB.
- Since the recused member will be taking up a role in their national government in relation to the PCB, they cannot continue serving on the EAC during this time.
- The delegate recusing themselves from their functions does not mean that the committee is not functional. The committee can have up to seven members with different nominations.

The Bureau noted that the Expert Advisory Committee would be fully functional with five members and agreed to follow the position from respective regional groups further to their internal discussions. Further to the Bureau meeting, the regional group agreed that their member would step down for a period of six months and continue serving on the Committee after this period.

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

#### **Resignation from the Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee (IEOAC)**

The Secretariat provided the following update:

- One member of the IEAOC has chosen to step down from the Committee before the end of their term, which expires in December 2024. In line with paragraph 23 of the IEOAC

Terms of Reference, a member of the IEOAC may resign his/her membership by giving notice in writing to the Chair of the PCB.

- In terms of next steps, from a legal standpoint, the Committee remains functional with six members, and their replacement, [approved by the Board](#) at the 54th PCB meeting, will be in place from 1 January 2025.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the update and agreed that the Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee remains fully functional with six members.

## **Update on the Global Partnership for Action to Eliminate All Forms of HIV-Related Stigma and Discrimination**

The Secretariat provided the following update:

- At the last [Bureau meeting on 21 August](#), the Bureau discussed the inclusion of the update on the Global Partnership to eliminate all forms of HIV-related stigma and discrimination on the agenda of the 55th PCB meeting.
- As per the modus operandi of the PCB, the agenda for the PCB is set by the UNAIDS Executive Director, in consultation with the PCB Bureau.
- The Secretariat values the PCB's continued interest in the progress of the Global Partnership since its last report in December 2022. Following careful consideration, the Executive Director has scheduled the next progress report for the June or December 2025 PCB meeting.
- A December 2024 report is not feasible due to ongoing strategic work within the Secretariat. Currently, the team is conducting a comprehensive review of the Global Partnership, which will allow for a more thorough and impactful update in 2025. Key actions in this review include:
  - **Ongoing Five-Year Review:** The Secretariat's Global Partnership team is undertaking a five-year review focusing on coordination, partnerships, political commitment, and national impacts. This assessment, already in progress, includes interviews and consultations with key informants during the last quarter of 2024 and will capture exemplary models and lessons across various contexts.
  - **In-Person Consultations:** In September 2024, an in-person consultation in Bangkok gathered representatives from eight Global Partnership countries to exchange insights and best practices. The outcomes from this event will support a strategy session on the Global Partnership in early 2025.
  - **Strategy Session in early 2025:** A key strategy session is planned for early 2025, bringing together co-conveners, technical partners, and community networks to review the Global Partnership's achievements, challenges, and future direction in alignment with the current global context.
- Upon completing the strategic review, the Secretariat will deliver a comprehensive report to the PCB in 2025. This timing allows for the integration of the latest insights to inform the PCB's consideration of the new Global AIDS targets and strategy. A December 2025 report would also mark a three-year period since the last PCB update, enabling the Secretariat to demonstrate sustained impact over time.



The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for this update and agreed that the 2025 Bureau would consider the best timing for this agenda item.

#### **Next PCB Bureau meeting on 4 November 2024**

The Secretariat provided the following update:

- The next PCB Bureau meeting is scheduled for Monday, 4 November 2024.
- The agenda for the meeting will include the selection of thematic segment proposals for 2025 and an update on the selection process for new members of the Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee (IEOAC).

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for this update.

The Chair informed Bureau members that the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Health of Kenya, His Excellency Mr Harry Kimtai, will be joining the next meeting of the PCB Bureau on Monday, 4 November 2024. The Chair thanked the Bureau members for their time and closed the meeting.

*[End of document]*