



UNAIDS PCB BUREAU MEETING

DATE: Monday, 4 November 2024

TIME: 14:00-16:00 (CET)

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

PARTICIPANTS

Kenya: Representing the PCB Chair: H.E. Mr Harry Kimtai, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Health; H.E. Mrs Fancy Chepkemoi Too, Permanent Representative of Kenya in Geneva; Dr Ruth Laibon Masha, Chief Executive Officer, NSDCC, Ministry of Health; Dr Douglas Bosire, Country support, NSDCC, Ministry of Health.

Brazil: Representing the PCB Vice-Chair: Ms Viviane Ferreira Lopes Diniz, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva.

Netherlands: Representing the PCB Rapporteur: Ms Zina Olshanka, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Geneva.

Representing the PCB NGO Delegation: Mr Gastón Devisich, Community Engagement Representative, Fundación Huésped, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

UNESCO: Representing the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations: Mr David Sunderland, Senior Project Officer, Health and Education.

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. Welcome from the Kenyan Principal Secretary, His Excellency Mr Harry Kimtai:** *The PCB Chair will thank PCB Bureau members for their support to Kenya as Chair and present the high-level visit programme prepared by the Kenyan authorities.*
- 2. Selection of themes for the PCB thematic segments in 2025:** *The Secretariat will provide an update on the process for the selection of the thematic segments of the 56th and 57th PCB meeting in 2025 and the PCB Bureau will select the proposals for the thematic segments in 2025.*
- 3. Report on the selection process of new members of the UNAIDS Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee (IEOAC):** *The Bureau will receive an update on the selection*

process for new members of the IEOAC for 2026–2027.

4. Any other business

Summary of the Meeting

The PCB Bureau Chair welcomed the Bureau members to the meeting and recalled that the objective of the meeting was to select themes for the thematic segments for 2025 for the consideration by the PCB at its 55th meeting in December 2024 and on the process for the selection of new members of the Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee (IEOAC). The PCB Bureau Chair also welcomed the Principal Secretary of the Kenyan Ministry of Health, His Excellency Mr Harry Kimtai, representing the PCB Chair.

1. Welcome from the Kenyan Principal Secretary, His Excellency Mr Harry Kimtai

The PCB Chair, His Excellency Mr Harry Kimtai, Principal Secretary of Kenya's Ministry of Health, expressed gratitude to Bureau members for their support of Kenya's chairmanship of the PCB and introduced the new Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations Office in Geneva, Her Excellency Mrs Fancy Chepkemoi Too. Mr Kimtai highlighted that this meeting forms part of a high-level visit to assist with preparations for the 55th PCB meeting, which includes two additional meetings: one with UNAIDS executive leadership to discuss shared strategic priorities, and another with African Group ambassadors in Geneva to advocate for continued commitment to the goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Mr Kimtai expressed Kenya's enthusiasm for hosting the 55th PCB Meeting in Nairobi in December, highlighting an agenda that is highly relevant to the nation and the broader region. The meeting's location in the African region, where children, adolescents, and young people are among the populations most impacted and underserved in the HIV response, underscores its significance. The agenda will allow for direct exploration of these issues in a local context, further informing PCB discussions.

Mr Kimtai noted that the 55th PCB thematic segment on "Addressing Inequalities in Children and Adolescents to End AIDS by 2030," is especially relevant for Kenya and the region, where children and adolescents are disproportionately affected by HIV.

A highlight of the meeting will be six planned field visits, providing PCB members and participants with firsthand exposure to Kenya's HIV response. These visits will enhance understanding of the challenges and successes faced by affected communities in the region.

Mr Kimtai outlined key field visits that will complement the PCB meeting's discussions. To compliment the agenda item on HIV in prisons and other closed settings, a visit is planned to a harm reduction program within a Kenyan prison, offering insights into the specific challenges encountered in closed settings within the HIV response. Another field visit is to MAONO Africa,

which supports young people and adolescents living with HIV. This visit is particularly relevant to the thematic segment at the 55th PCB on addressing inequalities among children and adolescents.

In light of the Bureau's discussion on the mid-term review of the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026, these field visits offer an opportunity to observe both achievements and remaining gaps in the HIV response. The visits are expected to contribute valuable insights toward the collective goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 and emphasize the need for sustainable funding for the Joint Programme.

Mr Kimtai reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to consensus decision-making, as demonstrated during the 54th PCB meeting. He noted Kenya's political and financial investment in UNAIDS, recalling the unique contribution of the Joint Programme in fostering global solidarity and evidence-based HIV programming.

Mr Kimtai also acknowledged the unique role of the NGO delegation within the UN system, and the need to preserve it, especially in the current environment of shrinking civic space.

He concluded by commending the leadership shown by Brazil and the Netherlands in supporting UNAIDS and reiterated Kenya's commitment to fostering broad engagement and consensus to ensure that no one is left behind in the fight to end AIDS by 2030.

Kenya announced that the 55th PCB drafting sessions will take place in the Amani Room in Nairobi, Kenya, a special venue commemorating the former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and his successful mediation of Kenya's 2007–08 political crisis.

Bureau members thanked Kenya for its chairmanship and dedicated preparations for the 55th PCB meeting in Nairobi. Bureau members emphasized the importance of holding the meeting in Kenya to bridge global decision-making with regional- and country-level realities, enhancing understanding of the HIV response on the ground. The Bureau looks forward to the scheduled field visits, which will provide PCB members with firsthand insights into the local HIV response and direct engagement with affected communities.

2. Selection of themes for the PCB thematic segments in 2025

The Secretariat provided the following update:

- Responding to decision 9.2 from the 53rd PCB meeting, on 10 July 2024, the PCB Bureau issued a call for theme submissions for 2025, with a submission deadline of 16 September 2024. The call was distributed to all PCB members and participants, including member states, the NGO delegation, and Cosponsors. In response, five proposals were received. A summary of the proposals was circulated to Bureau members prior to the meeting (Annex 1).
- The proposed themes, listed in alphabetical order of the submitting party, are as follows:
 - **Brazil:** "Universal access to injectable antiretrovirals for HIV prevention (PrEP) and treatment (ART)."

- **Mexico:** "Comprehensive care for people living with HIV, including co-infections (e.g., hepatitis C), co-morbidities, and other life cycle-related conditions."
 - **PCB NGO Delegation:**
 - "Beyond 2025: Addressing health inequities through sustained HIV response, human rights, and harm reduction for people who use drugs" — supported by WHO and UNODC
 - "From Crisis to Resilience: The HIV Response in the Middle East and North Africa." — supported by MENA H Coalition on HIV and Human Rights
 - **UNESCO:** "Next steps for the revisited operating model and next Global AIDS Strategy." — supported by UNICEF, World Bank, Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxemburg
- The PCB Bureau would need to select two of these proposals for the thematic segments in 2025. Proposals are to be considered on the basis of four criteria (decided at the 21st PCB meeting in December 2007): relevance, responsiveness, focus and scope for action. The Bureau will submit the two selected themes for the approval by the PCB at its 55th PCB meeting in December 2024.
 - In addition, Bureau members would need to recommend at which PCB meeting each thematic segment should take place (June or December). The Bureau's recommendations will be included in the "Next PCB meetings" paper for the PCB's consideration and approval in December.
 - To support the Bureau's discussion and as per practice, the Secretariat consulted with UNAIDS leadership for programmatic guidance on key priorities and areas that are lagging behind for the HIV response as reflected in the Global AIDS Report based on the proposals received.
 - In addition, the Secretariat recalled that there are additional ways to address important thematic topics. For example, if a theme proposed for a thematic segment could benefit from immediate action or decisions, the Bureau may recommend it as a regular agenda item instead. This was the case for the topic of HIV in prisons and other closed settings, which was proposed as a thematic segment but then became a regular agenda item due to the need for Board action.

In discussing the proposals for 2025 thematic segments, the Bureau noted the strength and relevance of all submissions. Among the five proposals, the Bureau discussed the priority themes based on the latest evidence on persistent challenges in the HIV response in achieving the 2025 targets and the goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. The Bureau agreed that the selected two proposals address critical issues for the development of the next Global AIDS Strategy and Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework.

For June 2025, the Bureau supported the proposal "Beyond 2025: Addressing health inequities through sustained HIV response, human rights, and harm reduction for people who use drugs". For December 2025, the Bureau supported the proposal "Universal access to injectable antiretrovirals for HIV prevention (PrEP) and treatment (ART)".

The Bureau recommended that the thematic segment proposal “Next steps for the revisited operating model and next Global AIDS Strategy” be discussed as part of a formal agenda item at the 56th PCB meeting, with adequate time allocated.

3. Report on the selection process of new members of the UNAIDS Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee (IEOAC)

The Secretariat provided the following update:

- Recalling decision point 11.3 from the 53rd PCB: “As per the terms of reference, requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the PCB Bureau, to initiate the process for selecting the new membership of the Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee for 2025–2026 and 2026–2027”.
- Following the briefing provided during the [PCB Bureau meeting on 21 August 2024](#), the Secretariat has continued advancing the selection process for the IEOAC membership for 2026–2027 on behalf of the UNAIDS Executive Director, in alignment with decision point 11.3 of the 53rd PCB.
- The Secretariat reviewed the process for establishing the committee as laid out in the terms of reference:
 - o *19. The UNAIDS Executive Director shall in consultation with the PCB Bureau:*
 - a) *place a call for expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced individuals through advertisements in reputable international magazines and/or newspapers with wide geographical circulation, and on the Internet;*
 - b) *inform the PCB members and observers of the search process.*
 - c) *engage an external consultant or a professional search firm specialized in the recruitment for senior positions, to screen all applications, interview candidates deemed suitable, and prepare a shortlist of the most suitable candidate based on the criteria for recruitment. In finalizing the shortlist due regard will be given to the diversity referred to in Paragraph 10. The consultant shall provide a report containing a brief assessment of the unsuccessful candidates; and*
 - d) *constitute a selection panel; decisions of the selection panel will be made by consensus; if consensus cannot be reached, the issue will be referred to the PCB Bureau.*
 - o *20. The PCB Bureau shall review the final selection of candidates and, if in full agreement, refer it to the PCB for final consideration and approval. If full agreement cannot be reached by the Bureau, the issue will be referred to the PCB.*
- Building on the 2021 selection experience, the Secretariat issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM), inviting search firms within the UN system. Three proposals were submitted.

- Prior to the Bureau meeting, each PCB Bureau member was invited to nominate a representative to join the Evaluation Committee, and all five nominees signed confidentiality agreements to maintain process integrity.
- A scoring tool was circulated to the PCB Bureau to support their evaluation of the submitted proposals. Each constituency submitted an evaluation of technical aspects of the three proposals. Following the technical review, financial proposals were included by the UNAIDS Procurement team to produce a combined evaluation ranking.
- To reduce the burden on the PCB Bureau, the Secretariat recommends that future selection of the professional search firm, as outlined in provision 19(c) of the terms of reference of the IEOAC, follow internal procurement protocols. The Bureau's role would primarily involve consultation on the final selection of the service provider.

The Bureau agreed by consensus on the winning bid. The Bureau's recommendation would be communicated to the Executive Director who would then finalize the recruitment of the search firm based on the process conducted by the Bureau and in line with UNAIDS rules and regulations. The Bureau took note of the Secretariat's guidance on following internal procurement protocols for the selection of the professional search firm in future IEOAC selection processes.

4. Any other business (AOB)

The Netherlands announced that it had submitted a written expression of interest for the position of Vice-Chair for 2025.

There was no other business discussed.

The Chair thanked the Bureau members for their collaboration and closed the meeting.

[End of document]

Annex 1: Themes proposed for the 56th and 57th PCB meetings in 2025

Table: Themes proposed for the 56th and 57th PCB meetings (June and December 2025)

No.	Theme	Proposed by:	Key Points	Supported by:	Theme linked to an agenda item?	Theme already addressed?	Contact
1	Universal access to injectable antiretrovirals for prevention (PrEP) and treatment (ART) of HIV	Brazil (PCB Vice-Chair in 2024)	Recent clinical studies, Purpose 1 and Purpose 2, indicate 100% efficacy of injectable antiretrovirals for HIV prevention, marking a groundbreaking advancement in HIV care. These findings highlight the potential of long-acting injectable antiretrovirals not only as a prevention strategy (PrEP) but also as a transformative treatment option for people living with HIV (PLHIV). By expanding therapeutic choices with long-acting ART, adherence rates are significantly improved, as patients no longer need to rely on daily oral medications, which can be difficult due to stigma, access, or personal challenges. Reducing treatment interruptions directly enhances viral suppression, preventing transmission and improving health outcomes. This milestone is a critical step towards accelerating the global effort to eliminate AIDS as a public health crisis. For these injectable solutions to be fully effective, equitable access is essential. Ensuring that all who could benefit—particularly in high-risk or marginalized populations—can access this revolutionary medication is key to sustaining the global reduction in HIV transmission rates. The potential for local production of injectable ARVs should be explored, as it could reduce costs and increase accessibility in developing countries. Discussions could also address regulatory hurdles, financing needs, and other strategies to ensure that the price of such technologies is affordable.	N/A	N/A	Not as a standalone but at the 5th PCB meeting in 1997, the thematic segment was "Access to drugs for HIV/AIDS and related illness: Towards the creation of strategic partnerships to improve access to care for people living with HIV/AIDS". In 2017, the thematic segment was "HIV Prevention 2020: a global partnership for delivery 40th PCB meeting, and at the 30th PCB meeting in 2012, the theme was "Combination Prevention: Addressing the urgent need to reinvigorate HIV prevention responses globally by scaling up and achieving synergies to halt and begin to reverse the spread of the AIDS epidemic". In December 2023, the thematic segment was HIV testing.	Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva; Ms. Viviane Ferreira Lopes Diniz/Counselor/+4178303774# elbrasgen@tamaraty.gov.br; viviane.lopes@tamaraty.gov.br
2	Integral attention to people who live with HIV including co-infections like hepatitis C, comorbidities and other conditions related to the life cycle	Mexico, CENSIDA, Ministry of Health	The full attention of people with HIV must consider all their health needs, including co-morbidities, coinfections and needs in the cycle of life. Due to the effectiveness of ART, people living with HIV reach a longer life, and face some health conditions previously not faced by people with former infections. One of the most important is hepatitis C virus infection, which is curable today. The amplification of periodic testing in people with HIV and other populations vulnerable to infection would be a helpful way of addressing this problem. The panel of experts and testimony of people who have endured these health conditions would inform the larger audience and enable policy-making decisions. The theme would enable discussion on the creation of national programs that have implemented the public policy of attention to the comorbidities associated with HIV, among other interventions.	N/A	N/A	Not directly. In June 2018 the thematic segment covered "Ending tuberculosis and AIDS - a joint response in the era of the Sustainable Development Goals" and in December 2020, the theme was "Cervical cancer and HIV- addressing linkages and common inequalities to save women's lives".	Ricardo Hernández Forcada, Director of Prevention and Social Participation, +52553072677 ricardo.hernandez@salud.gob.mx
3	Beyond 2025: Countering health inequities through sustaining the HIV response, human rights and harm reduction for people who use drugs	PCB NGO Delegation	As a recognized key population, people who use and inject drugs are central to the HIV response and to reaching global HIV targets. Structural and social inequities, namely criminalization and the stigma and discrimination it engenders, and poverty and marginalization shape the experiences of people who use drugs, limiting access to harm reduction services including ART and social protection measures. On this trajectory, current and future global HIV targets simply cannot be met. Threats to the political, financial and programmatic sustainability of the HIV response signal a backtracking of progress on harm reduction. It is urgent to take stock of the progress made, or lack thereof, towards ending AIDS among people who use drugs. Current drug policies have significant impacts on public health, social integration and the environment, and therefore, a thematic segment focused on countering health and other inequities experienced by PWUID under contemporary drug policies and practices would be of relevance to a broad range of actors in the global AIDS response. Moreover, this planned thematic segment aims to draw and build upon the last two thematic segments focused on priority and key populations and sustaining the gains of the global HIV response, with a specific focus on PWUID, drug policies and harm reduction, in the context of a world impacted by conflict, climate, and economic challenges, this theme will consider and discuss what the political, programmatic, and financial response for PWUID should look like in the future. This thematic segment aims to link to pathways of sustainability, as sketched out in the last PCB thematic segment, and will consider how to position the response for people who use drugs within the broader Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPPR) agendas.	WHO, UNODC	N/A	Yes, the theme "Halving HIV among people who inject drugs" was the thematic segment of the PCB meeting in 2014. "Sustaining the gains of the global HIV response to 2030 and beyond" was the thematic segment in June 2024.	Alessey Lakhov, NGO Europe, +49 176 583 56 O4@lkhov@unaidspcbngo.org
4	From Crisis to Resilience: The HIV Response in the Middle East and North Africa	PCB NGO Delegation	The HIV response in the MENA region faces multiple crises, including inadequate funding, weak health infrastructure and intense stigma and discrimination, against a backdrop of ongoing political turmoil, armed conflicts, record numbers of refugees and displaced people and economic instability. This theme would enable the joint programme to further consider how it must adapt to meet the needs of people living with and affected by HIV in conflict and humanitarian settings. Despite global declines in new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths, progress in MENA has stagnated, with just half of people living with HIV accessing antiretroviral treatment and significant increases in HIV incidence in several countries. By focusing on the MENA context, this thematic would propose solutions that are tailored to the region, while also generating learning that will be useful in other contexts, supporting the sustainability of the HIV response and increasing global solidarity to end AIDS. This theme will have relevance for many actors directly engaged in MENA's HIV response. Following the closure of UNAIDS office in MENA, a thematic meeting would offer these stakeholders the opportunity to look closely at the needs of the regional response in terms of leadership, sustainability and resilience, while also offering wider lessons regarding the UNAIDS operating model, at a time when this is being revisited. Discussions on financing in MENA could expand the PCB's existing knowledge around the role of the private sector in contributing funding, innovation, capacity-building, technical expertise and increased corporate social responsibility to support HIV responses. This theme is grounded in the urgent need for practical, implementable actions in the response to HIV in MENA, steering clear of theoretical discussions. It advocates for the establishment of resilient funding mechanisms that can sustain critical HIV programs amidst political and economic turbulence.	MENA H Coalition on HIV and Human Rights	N/A	No	Fionnuala Murphy; Head of Global Advocacy, Frontline AIDS; NGO Delegate for Western Europe; +44 7841 52654#fmurphy@unaidspcbngo.org
5	Next steps for the revisited operating model and next Global AIDS Strategy	UNESCO (COO Chair in 2024)	UNAIDS, the Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS, is committed to ensure that it remains sustainable, resilient and fit-for-purpose. The High-Level Panel (HLP) was presented in June 2024 by UNAIDS Executive Director to revisit the operating model and provide recommendations for the June 2025 PCB. The June 2025 PCB will receive the recommendations of the HLP at the same time as an annotated outline of the next Global AIDS Strategy (GAS). This thematic would consider both in detail, their links, and how best – in a less formal but highly focused fashion – UNAIDS can guide the AIDS response to 2030. This will be a unique moment to reflect upon the HLP and the possible shape of both the Joint Programme and the GAS. It will be timely and allow better consideration of the issues in a more holistic way, and having the advantage of being at a moment when all of UNAIDS stakeholders are assembled – thus reducing transaction costs. By falling within the existing time allocated for the June 2025 PCB meeting, the session would take full advantage of having all UNAIDS stakeholders in place. There has been a plethora of assessments of UNAIDS, most recently by MOPAN in 2023. With the recommendations of the HLP in hand, June 2025 will be the time to pull these together and begin to chart the way forward: openly and frankly considering all ideas but developing practical next steps which are owned as	UNICEF, World Bank, Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg	Yes - June 2025 PCB Meeting; annotated outline of the Global AIDS Strategy presented to the PCB and ED report on the recommendations from the HLP on the revised operating model presented to the Board - December 2025 PCB meeting; adoption of the Global AIDS Strategy by the PCB.	No	Joanna Herat, Chief of Section a.i. Health and Education, Division for Peace and Sustainable Development, Education Sector, UNESCOQ.herat@unesco.org