

## UNAIDS PCB Bureau meeting

DATE: Tuesday, 1 March 2022

TIME: 13:00-14:30 CET

VENUE: Virtual

### PARTICIPANTS

**PCB Bureau:** H.E. Mr Rongvudhi Virabutr, Dr Preecha Prempree, Dr Walaiporn Patcharanarumol, Dr Thaksaphon Thammarangsi, Dr Sairat Noknoy, Ms Parichart Chantcharas, Mr Natee Vichitsorasatra, and Dr Cha-aim Pachanee representing the PCB Chair (Thailand); Mr Binod Mahanty, Ms Judith Soentgen, and Ms Carolin Briem representing the PCB Vice-Chair (Germany); Dr Peace Mutuma representing the PCB Rapporteur (Kenya); Dr Chewe Luo and Ms Bettina T. Schunter representing the Chair of the Cosponsoring Organizations; and Mr Jumoke Patrick representing the PCB NGO Delegation.

**UNAIDS Secretariat:** Mr Tim Martineau, Deputy Executive Director of Management and Governance a.i., Mr Morten Ussing, Director Governance and Multilateral Affairs, Ms Samia Lounnas, Senior Governance Advisor, Governance and Multilateral Affairs, and Ms Maggie Lemons, Governance Officer, Governance and Multilateral Affairs

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### MEETING AGENDA

- 1. Establishment of the UNAIDS Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee (IEOAC):** *The PCB Bureau reviewed preparations related to the establishment of the UNAIDS IEOAC, including the outcome of the intersessional decision-making process and the proposed schedule for onboarding and orientation for the Committee members.*
  - 2. Update on intersessional decision-making processes:** *The PCB Bureau reviewed and discussed the upcoming intersessional decision-making processes on the modalities and procedures for 2022 PCB meetings and the composition of the Evaluation Expert Advisory Committee. The Committee also finalized the agendas and meeting schedule for the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PCB.*
  - 3. Any other business**
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## SUMMARY

H.E. Mr Rongvudhi Virabutr, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargé d'affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of Thailand in Geneva, representing Thailand as the PCB Bureau Chair, welcomed the Bureau members to their second meeting.

The Chair noted that the meeting would be an opportunity to review and discuss the upcoming orientation for the UNAIDS Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee (IEOAC) further to the approval of the composition by the wider PCB via intersessional decision making, as well as the upcoming intersessional decision-making processes, including the modalities and procedures for 2022 PCB meetings and the composition of the Evaluation Expert Advisory Committee.

The Chair also noted that the Secretariat would provide an update on people living with HIV in Ukraine during any other business in view of the current situation.

- 1. Establishment of the UNAIDS Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee (IEOAC):** *The PCB Bureau reviewed preparations related to the establishment of the UNAIDS IEOAC, including the outcome of the intersessional decision-making process and the proposed schedule for onboarding and orientation for the Committee members.*

The Chair noted that further to the intersessional decision-making process launched by the Bureau, approval from a quorum (15) of PCB members had been received with a total of 19 members voting in the affirmative and 3 members who did not vote, and that the Committee was now formally established. The Chair thanked the PCB Bureau members for their diligence and support throughout the process.

The Chair noted that the Secretariat has commenced the contractual process with the new members and had been preparing for their orientation, which would be crucial to ensure that the committee members have the right knowledge and tools to begin their work. The Chair recalled that the meeting would provide an opportunity to review a proposed schedule for the orientation as well as other preparations that the Secretariat has undertaken to support the Committee's work.

The Chair invited the Secretariat to provide an overview of this work: In parallel with the intersessional decision making process, the Secretariat begun preparations for the orientation of the IEOAC, both logistically and content-wise.

- The Secretariat had consulted with the cosponsors and members of oversight committees regarding elements of successful orientations for such committees to inform the development of the proposed orientation schedule.
- The contractual process for the Committee members was underway, and would include, per the terms of reference, confidentiality statements and conflict of interest declarations.
- Each member would receive a specific UNAIDS email to facilitate their work as a committee member.
- The Committee would also utilize a secure platform for their documentation.
- A search for an independent report writer was ongoing to support the Committee in drafting their meeting summaries and their annual report.
- In addition to the logistical elements of the Committee's work, the Secretariat had begun draft sketches of the workplan for the Committee as well as a proposed orientation schedule. These drafts would be circulated to the PCB Bureau following the meeting for comment and silent approval.
- Regarding the workplan, the TOR for the Committee originally envisioned two meetings a year. However, given that this was the first year that the Committee would be operable, it was likely that they will need to meet more times.

- The draft workplan therefore foresaw four potential meetings:
  - o 1. An introductory meeting in March 2022 to discuss their workplan, ways of working and to select a Chair amongst their membership.
  - o 2. A meeting in May 2022 to discuss the organizational oversight reports and to finalize their own annual report to the PCB.
  - o 3. A meeting in September 2022 to review and discuss ways to strengthen risk management at the Secretariat, in accordance with the decision point from the 47<sup>th</sup> PCB meeting requesting this subject to be part of the first workplan of the Committee.<sup>1</sup>
  - o 4. An optional fourth meeting in November 2022 to close out any issues and to prepare for their first fully operational year.
- The Committee would be expected to review and discuss this proposed workplan at their first meeting.
- In addition to the proposed meetings, it was also recommended that there be a 3-day virtual orientation session for the Committee members. The draft schedule of the orientation would also be sent to the Bureau members following the Bureau meeting for comments and silent approval.
- The Committee would have the opportunity to receive presentations from and to discuss key issues with:
  - o The UNAIDS Executive Director and Cabinet
  - o The PCB Bureau
  - o The CCO Chair
  - o The Director of Finance and senior advisers on performance monitoring and risk management
  - o The internal and external auditors
  - o The Director of Human Resources Management and the Coordinator for the ongoing Alignment exercise
  - o The Ethics Officer and
  - o Ombudsman
- This orientation would be a starting point and could be supplemented by one-off presentations on specific subjects as requested by the IEOAC to support the fulfilment of their mandate.

The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the presentation. Following procedural questions from members of the Bureau as well as a request that the orientation for the IEOAC include all relevant actors, the Secretariat provided further clarification:

- The meetings of the IEOAC were expected to be conducted virtually for the foreseeable future given the COVID-19 situation.
- The PowerPoint presentation and list of meetings already scheduled would be shared with the Bureau.
- The IEOAC would be given an opportunity review and comment on the orientation the session as well.

**2. Update on intersessional decision-making processes:** *The PCB Bureau reviewed and discussed the upcoming intersessional decision-making processes on the modalities and procedures for 2022 PCB meetings and the composition of the Evaluation Expert Advisory*

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<sup>1</sup> 47th Session of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, agenda item 11: 13.4 Agrees that the independent, external oversight advisory committee will review and recommend further strengthening of risk management to the PCB as part of its first plan of work after its establishment.

*Committee. The Committee also finalized the agendas and meeting schedule for the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PCB.*

### **Modalities and procedures for 2022 PCB meetings:**

The Chair recalled that the modalities and procedures for all 2022 PCB meetings paper would be sent to Bureau members following the meeting for written comments and silent approval. The Chair noted that the paper requests the PCB to approve that the PCB Bureau is delegated with the responsibility to decide decision on whether to hold the June and December meeting in person, hybrid or virtual. The decision of the PCB Bureau would have to be made according to the evolving health situation.

The Chair remarked that in view of the continued changes to the health situation, the Modalities and Procedures paper was designed to provide maximum flexibility to the PCB Bureau to make a final decision on the nature of the meeting 60 days in advance – at which point the invitations for the meeting would be circulated. The Chair mentioned that the recent rollback of regulations in Switzerland gave hope that the hybrid meeting in June as discussed by the PCB Bureau at the last session would likely be able to take place and that, hopefully, a fully in-person meeting in December would be possible.

The Chair recalled that the paper provided specific procedures, as discussed with the Bureau, for both hybrid and virtual meetings. In the event that the meeting was held in person, it would revert to the procedures laid out in the PCB Modus Operandi.

With regard to the proposal to swap the two thematic segments, as discussed at the first meeting of the Bureau and included in the hybrid modalities and procedures, the Chair invited the Secretariat to provide an update on this proposal for consideration:

The Secretariat indicated that discussions had been held with the CCO Chair and Cosponsoring organisations that were involved in the themes, namely WHO and UNESCO. As a conclusion had not yet been reached, the Bureau was informed that in case the recommendation were to swap the thematic segment themes, it would be included in the Modalities and Procedures paper which would be sent shortly after the meeting. In case it was suggested not to swap them, there would be no change in the Modalities and Procedures paper.

*With regard to whether the 50th PCB meeting would be hybrid, virtual or in person, Bureau members sought clarity on the deadline to decide or change what had thus far been agreed. Considering the deadline of mid-April, which would ensure that the invitations are sent to PCB members 60 days in advance of the meeting, in accordance with the modus operandi, it was agreed that the next meeting of the Bureau would be scheduled shortly before the middle of April to finalize this decision.*

The Chair recalled that the modalities would be circulated after this meeting for silent approval and concluded on this topic that if the health situation allowed, there would still be time to change the format of the meeting.

The Chair also noted that once the Modalities and Procedures paper had been approved, the Secretariat would move forward with the posting of the agenda for the upcoming 50th meeting of the PCB. After the meeting, member would receive draft annotated and timewise agendas for the upcoming PCB meeting as well as a schedule for pre-meetings for consideration. These agendas would include all of the items that were discussed with the exception of the Multistakeholder Task Team on Community-led AIDS responses.

The Secretariat was asked to provide an update on this:

- The Secretariat programmatic team on the Multistakeholder Task Team on Community-led AIDS responses concurred with the Bureau's emphasis on the importance of finalizing the work of this Task Team and providing the final report to the PCB during 2022.
- More time was needed for discussion on this topic and the June PCB meeting agenda was full, with little time for discussion given the hybrid or virtual format which only allows for half day meetings.
- The ongoing work of the department and the implementation of the Secretariat's alignment would support the delivery of a final report in December.

Members reiterated the importance of allowing sufficient time for debate on the Multistakeholder Task Team on Community-led AIDS responses agenda item, and there was agreement with postponing the agenda item until the December PCB meeting.

The Chair proposed that all pre-meeting sessions would be held the week prior to the PCB. The Secretariat was invited by the Chair to complement this. The Secretariat stated that the distinction was that the pre-meetings were assembled in the week prior to PCB meeting to avoid having a full month of engagements.

The Bureau agreed to the suggested pre-meeting schedule.

The Chair recalled that these agendas and meeting schedule would be circulated after the discussion for written comment and silent approval. Further to the approval of the Modalities and Procedures intersessional decision-making paper, the agendas and meeting schedule for the upcoming PCB meeting will be posted on the PCB webpage and circulated to all constituencies.

### **Evaluation Expert Advisory Committee:**

The Chair recalled that, as discussed at the previous meeting, a draft intersessional paper regarding the Evaluation Expert Advisory Committee had been drafted and would be circulated following the meeting for written feedback and silent approval. The intersessional paper served to confirm the nomination of the candidate from the Eastern European region who was expected to begin work as soon as the intersessional was cleared.

The Chair noted that once the Bureau had agreed the paper, these two intersessional processes would be taken forward. The Chair proposed that the first would be the Modalities and Procedures paper for intersessional decision making and then, once completed, the Bureau would move forward with the Evaluation Expert Advisory Committee intersessional.

The PCB Bureau agreed with the process.

### **3. Any other business**

As mentioned at the beginning of the meeting, the Chair first invited the Secretariat to provide an update on the situation for people living with HIV in Ukraine.

- The Secretariat informed that the Joint Programme was closely monitoring the situation for people living with HIV in Ukraine. The UNAIDS Executive Director would be sending a

communication to the wider PCB on key concerns and the work of the Joint Programme to support continuity of care for people living with HIV. Key current challenges included ARV shortages, disruptions for other treatments such as opioid substitution treatment and tuberculosis treatment, as well as ensuring access to HIV services for refugees.

- The Secretariat emphasized that the Joint Programme was working on assessing the situation, identifying key needs. A UNAIDS Task team was ensuring coordinating with partners including the government of Ukraine, the Global Fund and civil society groups and service providers in country.

The Chair stressed that they would follow the developments, including any humanitarian consequences on the people in the area. They hoped that a peaceful settle to the situation through dialogue could be reached soon.

Members underscored their concern for the situation and looked forward to receiving further information as the situation evolved.

Moving on to other issues under this item, the Chair informed members of the bureau that Thailand was holding a High Level Seminar: “Ending AIDS: Zero Discrimination, One World” on Monday, 7 March 2022 at 12.45-15.00 hrs. (Bangkok Time) or 6.45 – 9.00 hrs (Geneva Time) in hybrid format. This was part of Thailand’s initiative as Chair of the PCB this year.

The Seminar was aimed at enhancing global effort in addressing HIV-related stigma and discrimination through raising global awareness and promoting whole-of-society and whole-of-government commitment in this area. During the Seminar, participants would share information, knowledge and experience in tackling stigma, discrimination and inequalities in response to the HIV pandemic.

During the opening session, there would be remarks by the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Public Health of Thailand, as well as a Keynote Statement by Winnie, the UNAIDS Executive Director. The Chair emphasized that this reflected high level cooperation between Thailand and UNAIDS.

The opening session would be followed by a panel discussion, which they hoped to be rich and interactive. In this regard, Thailand has requested that UNAIDS circulate an invitation for the High Level Seminar to their network in Geneva and abroad, so that meaningful participation and cooperation in this area may be achieved.

Bureau members thanked the Chair for highlighting the importance of stigma and discrimination in ending inequities in the AIDS response. The CCO Chair also provided a brief update on an upcoming Joint Programme retreat to look at working modalities and how to implement the Global AIDS Strategy. There would also be the conclusion of the Capacity Assessment, which would clarify how to prioritize their work and provide mechanisms to be more effective. These discussions would help to identify and launch “global strategic initiatives” of the Joint Programme.

The Chair thanked the members of the Bureau for another productive session and closed the meeting.

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