

UNAIDS PCB Bureau

MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: Tuesday, 12 November 2013

PARTICIPANTS

Dr Rajesh Ranjan (India: Chair); Dr Timothy Poletti (Australia); Ms Fernande Mvila (Republic of Congo); Ms Jane Bruning and Mr Joel Nana (PCB NGO Delegation); Mr Chris Castle and Ms Ariana Stahmer (UNESCO).

UNAIDS Secretariat: Jan Beagle; Morten Ussing; Samia Lounnas.

MEETING AGENDA

1. Update, Regular Segment at 33rd PCB meeting

The Bureau will receive brief updates on the agenda items of the Regular Segment at the upcoming Board meeting including on the PCB NGOs report; the update on the AIDS response in the post-2015 development agenda, Strategic use of ARV medicines for treatment and prevention of HIV and Coordination of Technical Support.

2. Update, Thematic Segment at 33rd PCB meeting (HIV, Adolescents and Youth)

The Bureau will receive a brief update on the agenda and preparations for the thematic segment at the 33rd PCB meeting.

3. Follow-up of Thematic Segments

The Bureau will discuss the way forward on follow-up to thematic segments.

4. Proposals for the Thematic Segments, 34th and 35th PCB meetings (June and December 2014)

The Bureau will agree the paper presenting the 2 themes selected to the PCB for the 34th and 35th PCB meetings.

5. Any other business

SUMMARY

Opening remarks from the PCB Bureau Chair

Dr Rajesh Ranjan, representing the PCB Chair, welcomed all participants to the last Bureau meeting before the 33rd PCB meeting on 17-19 December 2013.

He recalled that the Bureau had a conference call on 17 October during which the members selected the themes for the 34th and 35th PCB meetings. The selection of themes and dates for future PCB meetings would be discussed later in agenda item 4 of the Bureau meeting.

After adoption of the agenda, the Chair gave the floor to the Secretariat to present the agenda items for the 33rd PCB meeting.

1. Update, Regular Segment at 33rd PCB meeting

The UNAIDS Secretariat provided an update on status of preparations for the 33rd PCB meeting as follows:

- The draft annotated agenda of the 33rd PCB meeting has been posted on the PCB website on the 10 October;
- The Note verbale and information note were posted on 17 October (English and French);
- Invitations to PCB constituencies were sent on 17 October;
- Most PCB papers will be posted 4 weeks before the PCB meeting;
- The date for the pre-PCB Missions Briefing will be communicated by email.

Additional updates on specific agenda items were provided as follows:

(1.2) Report of the 32nd PCB meeting

- The report is ready and will be posted as soon as the new UNAIDS website is operational.

(1.3) Report of the Executive Director:

- The outline of the report of the EXD is expected a week before the 33rd PCB meeting as is customary. The EXD is currently exploring options for speakers for the “Leadership in the AIDS response” agenda item. The Bureau will be kept informed.

(1.4) Report by the NGO representative

- The NGO Delegation updated the Bureau on the finalization of the paper, which is currently being reviewed by the Delegation. It will be available on the PCB website in the coming weeks.
- The paper is entitled : “The Equity deficit: Unequal and unfair access to HIV treatment, care and support for key affected communities”.
- The paper is developed around five factors that, according to the NGO Delegation, will ‘make or break’ the ‘Equity Deficit’ in the future. These factors are:

1. ‘ Make or break’ factor 1: Human Rights and Ethics

2. 'Make or break' factor 2: Data and 'what works'
3. 'Make or break' factor 3: Financial investment
4. 'Make or break' factor 4: Meaningful involvement
5. 'Make or break' factor 5: Technical capacity

(3) Update on the AIDS response in the post 2015 development agenda

The UNAIDS Secretariat informed that the paper is finalized and will be posted shortly:

- The paper provides an update on key developments in the post-2015 debate since the 32nd PCB as they pertain to the future of the AIDS response.
- The paper describes the processes and specific initiatives to position AIDS in the post-2015 development agenda with focus on the work to date of the UNAIDS and Lancet Commission: Defeating AIDS – Advancing global health; civil society action; and youth mobilisation.

(4) Strategic use of antiretroviral medicines for treatment and prevention of HIV

The UNAIDS Secretariat provided the following update:

- The paper is currently being cleared by Secretariat and cosponsors and will be posted shortly;
- The paper reviews all strategic use of antiretroviral medicines. It emphasizes that the most important role of ARVs in saving lives. It also stresses the importance of implementing the recent scientifically proven use of ARV medicines for HIV prevention;
- The paper draws on the recommendations in the recent WHO 2013 guidelines. It outlines a series of actions that need to be promoted at country level for the effective implementation of the guidelines; and
- Reaffirming the 2011 UNGA Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and the commitment to achieve universal access, the paper stresses the importance of accelerating the process of reviewing targets based on the new 2013 WHO guidelines targets.

(5) Coordination of HIV technical support in a rapidly changing environment

The UNAIDS Secretariat provided the following update:

- The paper is being reviewed by Secretariat and cosponsors and will be posted shortly;
- The paper highlights the lessons learned for coordination of technical support as follows:
 - Critical importance of country ownership/leadership;
 - full engagement of civil society, both as providers and recipients of technical support;
 - importance of strengthening existing country coordination mechanisms as part of the country dialogue process; and
 - regional and global technical support coordination mechanisms need to support country efforts;
- The paper also proposes strategic directions for moving forward including:
 - Strengthening implementation at decentralized levels;
 - strengthening data collection and analysis;

- enhancing strategic investments;
 - adoption of new technologies;
 - strengthening procurement and supply chain management systems; and
 - support to address critical enablers - human rights, gender equality and community mobilization.
- Finally, the paper suggests the future role of UNAIDS in strengthening TS coordination:
 - Bringing together governments, civil society organizations, people living with HIV, bilateral agencies, private sector, the Global Fund and other stakeholders to strengthen the country dialogue process, Concept Note development and Global Fund grant implementation; and
 - supporting countries to better understand their specific HIV epidemic, utilizing an investment approach and strengthening national AIDS strategic plans to facilitate the development of robust Global Fund Concept Notes and ensure that national responses are effective, efficient and sustainable.

(6) Next Programme Coordinating Board meetings

The UNAIDS Secretariat provided an update as follows:

- The paper will be finalized further to this Bureau meeting.
- The paper presents the themes selected by the Bureau for the 34th and 35th PCB meetings and dates for the 2016 PCB meetings and proposes an amendment of the dates for the June 2015 meeting.

(7) Election of officers

- The paper is ready to be posted.
- The Modus Operandi foresees the Programme Coordinating Board to elect the current vice chair, Australia, to the position of chair for a term starting on 1 January, 2014. This meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board must also elect a vice chair and a rapporteur for a term of one year starting on 1 January, 2014.
- Through this paper, the Programme Coordinating Board is requested to elect officers for 2014 and to approve the new members of the NGO Delegation.

2. Update, Thematic Segment at 33rd PCB meeting (HIV, Adolescents and Youth)

The UNAIDS Secretariat provided an update as follows:

- The background note will be posted shortly;
- the third Working Group (WG) meeting is confirmed for 18 November. The objective of this last meeting of the WG is to discuss details of the programme for the thematic day;
- 213 submissions in total were received; Africa (including North Africa) – 110; Asia (including Middle East) – 34; Latin America and the Caribbean – 16; Eastern Europe – 20; Western Europe and Other States – 21; Multiple regions/global – 12;
- the Secretariat is in the process of identifying speakers in accordance with the agenda. Speakers will include young people living with HIV and young activists who can speak to strong programmes and initiatives at country-level;

- the Secretariat is currently contracting a moderator for the session; and
- the Chair and the Secretariat reiterated the importance for the PCB members to include a young person in their delegations. It was agreed to send a message on behalf of the PCB Chair to encourage members to do so.

3. Follow-up of Thematic Segments

- The Chair requested the Secretariat to introduce the note on decision making in follow-up to thematic segments that had been prepared at the request of the Bureau to inform a Bureau discussion on the subject.
- The Secretariat presented the background note as follows:
 - The note describes current practice in follow-up of thematic segments based on the paper (UNAIDS/PCB (21) 07.5) “Issues related to future Programme Coordinating Board meetings” from the 21st PCB. The paper included the objectives of thematic segments, the process and criteria for identification of themes for the PCB thematic segments and participation in thematic segments. It laid out the purposes of thematic. The Board took note of this paper in 2007.
 - The note outlines how follow-up to thematic segments has evolved over time and annexes all themes that have been addressed in thematic sessions this far.
 - The note also presents the recommendations from the Second Independent Evaluation (SIE) task force with regard to follow-up to thematic segments, which reflects the wording from the PCB paper and is the basis for the current practice. The SIE stated that:

“Under appropriate circumstances, some PCB thematic segments may result in an outcome document, possibly including recommendations for action. However, this should not be regarded as a key objective for these segments, since their main raison d’être should rather be the facilitation of dialogue. Similarly, the possibility of achieving consensus should not drive the selection of discussion topics, as the success of the thematic segment will depend largely on its ability to address a broad array of issues. Recommendations that the thematic segment may have for UNAIDS’ action will have to be endorsed by the regular segment of the meeting.”
 - The note further suggests to continue using the PCB paper from the 21st meeting as the reference for the thematic segments while taking into consideration the refinement proposed by the Second Independent Evaluation task force on follow-up of all aspects of Governance and that it would be decided on a case by case basis whether it would be beneficial for the follow-up to a particular thematic session to include decision points.
- Following the presentation, the Bureau members commended the note and the overall approach to the follow-up of thematic segments at PCB meetings.
- Members discussed whether the PCB paper from the 21st meeting and the refinement from the SIE task force on follow-up of all aspects of Governance could continue to serve as reference, or whether changes to the current practice should be considered.

- The Bureau decided that it would be appropriate to keep the current practice for follow-up to thematic segments based on the paper presented at the 21st meeting and the recommendations from the SIE task force. This means that decision points in follow-up to thematic segments will continue to be decided on a case by case basis.
- Finally, the Bureau agreed to keep the matter under review at future Bureau meetings.

4. Proposals for the Thematic Segments, 34th and 35th PCB meetings (June and December 2014)

The Secretariat recalled the process as follows:

- On behalf of the PCB Bureau, the Secretariat sent on 28 June a call for proposals of themes to all PCB constituencies. The deadline to submit proposals of themes was 3 September;
 - a reminder was sent on 23 August to all PCB constituencies. At that time, no proposals were received;
 - on 3 September, a totality of 5 full proposals and 4 titles for themes but without completed template had been received, and one submitter informed to be in the process of revising the submitted proposal. Several members requested of the deadline for submissions. An additional week was granted;
 - at the Bureau meeting on 11 September, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that some titles and proposals were similar and could be combined. It was suggested that the Secretariat contact the submitting delegations and encourage elaboration of consolidated proposals;
 - the Bureau meeting to agree on the themes was rescheduled from 23 October at the request of the Chair to 12 November. It was agreed to have a Bureau teleconference to agree on the themes on 17 October.
- The 17 October Bureau conference call agreed on the selection of the themes for the 34th and 35th PCB meetings as follows:
 - A total of eight complete proposals were considered:
 1. Améliorer les connaissances et les capacités des jeunes HSH en matière de prévention du VIH et des autres IST, de réduction des risques sexuels et de santé sexuelle.
 2. HIV in prisons and other closed settings.
 3. Integrating HIV services into Universal Health Coverage.
 4. Addressing social and economic drivers of HIV through social protection.
 5. Communities, demand, deliver and invest in Treatment 2015
 6. Inclusion of PLHIV in the HIV and AIDS response.
 7. Treatment Adherence: key to maximizing the impact of ART.
 8. Halving HIV Transmission among People Who Inject Drugs.
 - After discussion, the Bureau agreed that the themes for the 34th and 35th Programme Coordinating Board meetings be respectively: “Addressing social and economic drivers of HIV through social protection” and “Halving HIV transmission among People Who Inject Drugs”.

5. Any other business

Ms Jan Beagle, Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS, provided highlights from the PCB Field Visit to Zambia (4-6 November) as follows:

- The PCB field visit to Lusaka was very successful and the timing was excellent for the visit as it coincided with high level events in the AIDS response in Zambia.
- The objective of the PCB field visit was for the Delegation of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) to learn about the response in a high endemic country moving to low-middle income status.
- The PCB delegation had a broad regional representation with Member State representatives from Australia, Brazil, Congo, India, Norway, Poland, and Zimbabwe, representatives of the PCB NGO delegation, and the UNAIDS cosponsors.
- The delegation witnessed progress made, and challenges remaining in the country's AIDS response and the value of an integrated multisectoral response supported by the UN Joint Team under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator.
- The visit came at a time of contrast in the AIDS response in Zambia - success in terms of reducing HIV prevalence and scaling up access to treatment including for eMTCT, but also challenges around rates of testing and increasing numbers of infections among young people, as well as donor retrenchment and issues related to access to services of key populations.
- The programme for the visit was balanced, including meetings with ministers, officials, civil society organisations, the RC and the Joint UN Team on AIDS and site visits,
- The Resident Coordinator and the Joint UN Team on AIDS stressed that the AIDS response was seen as a pathfinder for joint work in Zambia.
- Ms Beagle thanked the PCB Delegation for their participation in the field visit and informed the Bureau that the web story was posted on UNAIDS website. The full report of the visit will be posted on PCB website in advance of the PCB.

6. Closing of the meeting

- Dr Ranjan thanked all Bureau members for their work during the year and thanked the UNAIDS Secretariat for the support provided to the chair.
- Ms Jan Beagle thanked India for their excellent chairmanship of the Programme Coordinating Board in 2013 and welcomed Australia as the new Chair for 2014.