



**NGO
DELEGATION TO THE
UNAIDS PCB**

53rd PCB Meeting

PCB Summary Bulletin

12 until 14 December 2023

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Introduction

Fionnuala Murphy | European Delegate

The first day of the meeting saw the executive director's report and consideration of the NGO delegation's report on People living with HIV in humanitarian emergencies, as well as a keynote address on Leadership in the AIDS response by the First Lady of Namibia Monica Geingos. Day 1 also saw tense discussions begin on the follow-up to the thematic segment from the 52nd PCB meeting, which focussed on Priority and key populations, especially transgender people.

On the second day, the PCB discussed the 2024-2025 Workplan and Budget (UBRAF), as well as the UNAIDS Evaluation Annual Report and the Consultation on the follow-up to the 2023 ECOSOC Resolution, including the establishment of term limits and performance expectations for the UNAIDS Executive Director. Day 2 also covered procedural issues on the next PCB meetings, the Election of Officers, and the Renewal of terms for the UNAIDS Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee (IEOAC).

The third day was dedicated to a thematic segment on the topic of HIV and testing, featuring speakers from civil society and communities, national governments, UNAIDS and its co-sponsors, and academia. The latter part of day three then returned to unresolved decision points, specifically on the thematic segment of the 52nd PCB meeting, culminating in adopting a set of decisions to increase access to HIV prevention, testing, treatment, and other social protection services for transgender people.

Report of the Executive Director

Midnight Poonkasetwattana | Asia and the Pacific Delegate

The UNAIDS executive director reminded the PCB members that we're only seven years away from 2030 and need to deepen our commitments from governments, civil society, and UN agencies to get on track and reach the agreed targets.

The NGO Delegation urged the PCB members to step up in the political will and investment to truly 'Let Communities Lead' so that by 2025, communities will deliver the 30-60-80 targets.

In 2024, a mid-term review of the current Global AIDS Strategy (2021-2026) will be conducted, as well as the consultative process to develop the next Global AIDS Strategy and 2030 HIV targets (2027-2031).

Report by the NGO representative

Aleksei Lakhov | European Delegate

The annual report of the Delegation was titled "People Living with HIV During Humanitarian Emergencies." The report highlighted that there is currently no shared understanding of humanitarian emergencies and that the Joint Programme should contemplate this matter from a public health perspective first and foremost.

One of the most crucial messages from the report was the need to develop a minimum package of interventions for people living with HIV during humanitarian emergencies. In addition, the report underscored the vital role communities play in responding to the spread of HIV in such emergencies.

Finally, the Delegation urged the Joint Program to revisit discussions on the report's progress in a future PCB meeting. The NGO Delegation successfully maintained all essential decision points (from a civil society perspective) during the negotiations in the drafting room sessions.

Leadership in the AIDS response

[Myles Mwansa | African Delegate](#)

The First Lady of Namibia reminded PCB members that inequalities increase vulnerability to HIV, impede access to health services, and stand in the way of people's dignity and rights. Global Inequality Council is to support the robust AIDS response. She told the PCB: "Leadership speaks about criminalization, yet others are criminalizing; it speaks about fully funding UNAIDS and the global AIDS response, yet others are cutting back funding."

The NGO Delegation appealed to the PCB that with less than 80 months to go until 2030, our communities need leaders who will work with us to support populations most susceptible to new HIV infections.

Follow-up to the thematic segment from the 52nd Programme Coordinating Board meeting

[Aleksei Lakhov | European Delegate](#)

Representatives of the NGO Delegation - Cecilia Chung and Erika Castellanos - highlighted the fact that more efforts are needed for HIV responses to be equitable and accessible for transgender people who are living with or impacted by HIV.

All the PCB members and staff of the Secretariat were congratulated on ensuring the voices of key populations, among them - Gumisayi Bonzo, Ariadne Ribeiro Ferreira, Masen Davis, and Lynn Regina - were heard during the 52nd Thematic Segment. The report also mentioned that data gaps, criminalization, stigma, discrimination, and violence were the consistent challenges. The delegates stressed that there should be "nothing about us without us" in the global response to HIV in response to some Member States delegations pushing to remove all references to transgender people.

The adoption of the decision points for this agenda item marked the first time that a member state-led UN body had adopted decision points by consensus that included

specific references and commitments to transgender people and actions to be taken by Member States, albeit with a small number of Member States disassociating from the decision.

Follow-up actions to the 2024-2025 Budget and Workplan (UBRAF)

[Xavier Biggs | Latin America and the Caribbean Delegate](#)

The joint program continued to face challenges in mobilizing resources to fund the UBRAF fully at USD 210 million. This has severely impacted the retention of institutional memory and the maintenance of technical capacity within the Joint Programme, with funding cuts of as much as 50% since 2015. The Secretariat presented three funding scenarios, two of which are alternatives to a fully funded framework. The Joint Programme continued prioritizing programming in critical areas to ensure maximum efficiency and will continue its resource mobilization efforts.

Evaluation, Annual Report, and UNAIDS Management Response

[Sonal Giani | Asia and the Pacific Delegate](#)

The reports emphasized integrating HIV services with primary healthcare for better accessibility and the importance of using evaluation outcomes to optimize resource allocation and decision-making. The interventions emphasized the significant budget constraint for evaluations, questioning how success and change will be measured under such limitations, including fears around reducing human rights-focused evaluation.

Concerns were raised about the funding gap of \$200,000 for the NGO Delegation and CCF, underlining how this shortfall hinders the delegation's role in policymaking and risks silencing crucial voices. The delegation underscored the criticality of a fully funded UBRAF and 'Letting Communities Lead' in achieving targets.

Consultation on the follow-up to the 2023 ECOSOC Resolution

Gastón Devisich | Latin America and the Caribbean Delegate

In 2019, the UN Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) recommended the UNAIDS PCB open a dialogue with the Secretary-General (SG) on term limits and performance expectations for the executive director of UNAIDS. A working group found some recommendations were beyond the PCB's remit, reporting to ECOSOC in 2021. ECOSOC requested the SG submit a report on two four-year term limits and expectations. However, in early 2023, the SG decided against term limits. The PCB now proposed discussing performance expectations for the executive director and what these would be, with the report being transmitted to the SG.

Next PCB Meetings

Cecilia Chung | North American Delegate

The PCB approved the topics for the 54th and 55th thematic segments by consensus. They are as follows:

- Sustaining the gains of the global HIV response to 2030 and beyond (54th PCB, June 2024);
- Addressing inequalities in children and adolescents to End AIDS by 2030 (55th PCB, December 2024);

The board also requested the bureau to call for the themes for 2027 thematic segments and approved holding the 58th and 59th PCB meetings in Geneva on 30 June - 2 July 2026 and 8 - 10 December 2026, respectively.

Election of Officers

[Shamin Mohamed Jr. | North American Delegate](#)

Kenya was elected as the Chair, Brazil as the Vice-Chair, and Netherlands as the Rapporteur from 1 January to 31 December 2024. The Chair introduced the two new members of the NGO delegation. The PCB approved the composition of the NGO Delegation with the addition of two delegates for the 2024-2025 term: Shamin Mohamed Jr (LetsStopAIDS/North America) and Fionnuala Murphy (Frontline AIDS/Europe). The Chair also thanked the outgoing delegates, Christian Hui (North America) and Erika Castellanos (Europe), for their meaningful participation as NGO delegates. Russia decided to disassociate from this decision.

Thematic Segment: Testing and HIV

[Martha Clara Nakato | Africa Delegate](#)

Diverse and experienced speakers provided profound insights urging global efforts to intensify HIV testing initiatives, including HIV self-testing and Viral Load testing, emphasizing the paramount importance of timely testing in ending new HIV infections and enhancing the quality of life for people living with HIV.

Increased accessibility and awareness were stressed, especially for at-risk and hard-to-reach populations, with collaborative action seen as vital to breaking down barriers and reducing stigma. Prioritizing testing emerges as a pivotal strategy for early detection, treatment, and prevention, aligning to end AIDS by 2030. This collective plea is a resounding call to unite in the urgent mission of leaving no one behind.