



Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

**UNAIDS**

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**MODUS OPERANDI  
OF THE PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD  
OF THE JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**

**(Revised June 1999)**

**Establishment**

1. The worldwide epidemic of AIDS - a syndrome caused by HIV - is one of the major tragedies of our time. HIV continues to spread, invisibly, at a rate of many thousands of new infections every day, and its impact will continue to wreak unprecedented havoc among individuals, families and all sectors of societies well into the twenty-first century. The magnitude and duration of the epidemic, and the complex challenge of leading and sustaining the response to it, call for a special global programme.

2. Resolution 1994/24 adopted by ECOSOC in July 1994 endorsed the establishment of the joint and cosponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS as outlined in the annex to the resolution. That annex described the fundamental characteristics that would comprise such a programme. In Section VI of the annex on Organizational Structure, it is indicated that the Executive Director of the programme, appointed by the UN Secretary-General upon the recommendation of the cosponsors, will report directly to the programme coordinating board which will serve as the governance structure for the programme. The cosponsors have formed a Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (CCO) and the terms of reference of the CCO and the UNAIDS Secretariat are found in Annex 1 of this document.

3. Resolution 1994/24 also indicated that the Board's detailed responsibilities and meeting schedule will be specified in a document containing its terms of reference. These details are set out below and take into consideration the subsequent discussions of ECOSOC at its organizational sessions and the resolution adopted at its 1995 substantive session (ECOSOC resolution 1995/2 refers).

**Purpose**

4. The Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) acts as the governing body on all programmatic issues concerning policy, strategy, finance, monitoring and evaluation of UNAIDS.

**Functions**

5. In order to carry out its functions the PCB shall be kept informed of all aspects of the development of UNAIDS and take into account, in matters of strategy and technical policy, the reports and recommendations of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (CCO) and the Executive Director, and appropriate reports and recommendations from UNAIDS scientific and technical advisory committees established by the Executive Director. The functions of the PCB are:

- (i) To establish broad policies and priorities for the Joint Programme, taking into account

the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/199;

- (ii) To review and decide upon the planning and execution of the Joint Programme. For this purpose, it shall be kept informed of all aspects of the development of the Joint Programme and consider reports and recommendations submitted to it by the CCO and the Executive Director;
- (iii) To review and approve the plan of action and budget for each financial period, prepared by the Executive Director and reviewed by the CCO;
- (iv) To review proposals of the Executive Director and approve arrangements for the financing of the Joint Programme;
- (v) To review longer term plans of action and their financial implications;
- (vi) To review audited financial reports submitted by the Joint Programme;
- (vii) To make recommendations to the Cosponsoring Organizations regarding their activities in support of the Joint Programme, including those of mainstreaming; and
- (viii) To review periodic reports that will evaluate the progress of the Joint Programme towards the achievement of its goals.

6. Annual reports submitted to the PCB on the work of the Joint Programme, together with any comments as the PCB may wish to make, shall be made available to the governing bodies of each of the Cosponsoring Organizations and ECOSOC.

### **Composition**

7. The membership of the PCB comprises 22 Member States, elected from among the Member States of the Cosponsoring Organizations, with the following regional distribution:

Western European and Others Group	7 seats
Africa	5 seats
Asia and Pacific	5 seats
Latin America and the Caribbean	3 seats
Eastern European/Commonwealth of Independent States	2 seats

8. The term of membership of these 22 members shall be three years. The initial terms of members shall vary in order to achieve a staggering of membership. After the initial elections, approximately one third of the membership shall be replaced annually.

9. Each of the cosponsors shall have full rights of participation in the PCB but without the right to vote (see the terms of reference of the CCO in Annex 1 of this Modus Operandi).

10. Five nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), three from developing countries and two from the developed countries or countries with economies in transition, shall be invited to participate in meetings of the PCB but without the right to take part in the formal decision-making process and without the right to vote (ECOSOC resolution 1995/2 refers).

11. The selection of the five nongovernmental organizations would be determined by the NGOs

themselves from among those either in consultative status with ECOSOC or in relationship with one of the cosponsoring organizations or on the roster of NGOs dealing with matters pertaining to HIV/AIDS. The PCB shall formally approve the NGOs nominated. The terms of office of the selected NGOs shall not exceed three years.

### **Observers**

12. Upon written application, which expresses a manifest interest, observer status for PCB meetings may be granted by the Executive Director, in consultation with the chairperson of the PCB, to any Member State of any of the Cosponsoring Organizations, and any intergovernmental or nongovernmental organization. Observers will make their own arrangements to cover expenses incurred in attending meetings of the PCB.

13. Observers may participate, when invited to do so by the chairperson, in the deliberations of the PCB on matters of particular concern to them. Observers may have access to PCB background documents. They may submit memoranda to the Executive Director who shall determine the nature and scope of their circulation.

### **Meetings**

14. The PCB shall hold a regular session once a year in Geneva and may decide to hold additional sessions, if the majority of PCB members so decide. The sessions will be public unless the PCB decides otherwise.

15. The Executive Director of UNAIDS serves as the Secretary of the PCB.

16. In consultation with the CCO and the chairperson of the PCB, the Executive Director shall prepare an agenda for each meeting.

17. Announcements of regular meetings, accompanied by the provisional agenda, shall be sent to members, participants and observers, at least sixty days before the first day of the meeting; background documents will be prepared in English and French and sent as soon as possible thereafter.

18. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided for all PCB meetings in English and French. Simultaneous interpretation into other UN official languages may be provided on written request submitted by a member to the Secretary no later than six weeks prior to a full meeting of the PCB.

19. Two thirds of the voting members of the PCB, i.e., fifteen, constitute a quorum.

20. Funds will be made available to cover the costs for per diem and travel incurred in connection with the attendance at PCB meetings for one representative from each developing country, from each country with an economy in transition and for one representative from each of the five nongovernmental organizations.

### **Officers**

21. The PCB shall elect from among its members a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and a rapporteur at each annual regular session of the Board. The terms of office of the chairperson and vice-chairperson will be one year or until the next annual regular session of the Board. However, it is expected that the vice-chairperson will be elected to take the office of chairperson at the subsequent annual regular session of the Board unless the vice-chairperson has indicated that he/she does not seek election as chairperson,

or if the vice-chairperson was unable to complete his/her term of office. Officers will be elected taking into account a fair geographical distribution.

22. Should the chairperson be unable to complete his/her term of office, the vice-chairperson will take over the office of chairperson and the PCB shall elect a new vice-chairperson at its next meeting.

23. The chairperson and, in his or her absence, the vice-chairperson, shall preside over meetings of the PCB. Between meetings, they shall have such additional duties as may be assigned by the PCB.

### **Procedures**

24. The PCB may establish subcommittees and ad hoc working groups to assist it in carrying out its functions.

25. The PCB shall endeavour to adopt its decisions and recommendations by consensus. Should decisions by voting or other procedural advice be necessary, the PCB shall use the Rules of Procedures in Annex 2 of this Modus Operandi.

26. Recommendations, decisions and conclusions shall be submitted for adoption by the members prior to the close of PCB meetings and distributed to all participants preferably within one week of the close of the meeting.

27. A report of the PCB meeting shall incorporate the recommendations, decisions and conclusions referred to in paragraph 26 above and be distributed to members and other participants within sixty days of the close of the meeting.

28. The PCB may amend or supplement its modus operandi.

**Annex 1**

**Terms of Reference of the  
Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations  
and the UNAIDS Secretariat**

**I. Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations**

**Functions**

1. A Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (CCO) serves as the forum for the Cosponsoring Organizations to meet on a regular basis to consider matters concerning UNAIDS, provides input from the cosponsoring organizations into the policies and strategies of UNAIDS, and serves as a standing committee of the PCB. Specifically, the CCO has the following functions:

(i) To review work plans and the proposed programme budget for each coming financial period, prepared by the Executive Director and reviewed by such advisory committees as may be established by the Executive Director, in time for presentation to the annual meeting of the PCB;

(ii) To review technical and financial proposals to the PCB for the financing of the Joint Programme for the coming financial period;

(iii) To review technical and audited financial reports submitted by the Executive Director (including reports by advisory committees established by the Executive Director), and to transmit these with comments as appropriate to the PCB;

(iv) To make recommendations to the PCB;

(v) To review the activities of each Cosponsoring Organization for appropriate support of, as well as consistency and coordination with, the activities and strategies of the Joint Programme;

(vi) To report to the PCB on the efforts of the Cosponsoring Organizations to bring the Joint Programme's policy as well as strategic and technical guidance into the policies and strategies of their respective organizations and to reflect them in activities specific to their mandates; and

(vii) To decide on behalf of the PCB on issues referred to it for this purpose by the PCB.

**Composition**

2. The CCO is comprised of the Head of each of the Cosponsoring Organizations or their designated representatives. They may be accompanied by advisers.

**II. UNAIDS Secretariat**

3. The Secretariat comprises the Executive Director and such technical and administrative staff as the Programme may require.

4. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations upon the consensus recommendation of the Cosponsoring Organizations. The Executive Director shall be subject to the authority of the Programme Coordinating Board.

5. The Executive Director is, ex-officio, Secretary of the PCB, of the CCO, of all subcommittees of the PCB and of conferences organized by UNAIDS. He/she may delegate the functions.
6. The Executive Director may, by agreement with Member States of the cosponsoring organizations, have direct access to their various departments, administrations and organizations, whether governmental or nongovernmental. He/she may also establish direct relations with international organizations whether intergovernmental or nongovernmental.
7. The Executive Director shall, in the exercise of providing leadership and guidance to the programme:
- (i) Prepare and submit to the PCB, after review by the CCO, the workplan and budget for each biennium;
  - (ii) Mobilize and manage, in accordance with the financial regulations and rules of WHO (the agency providing administration of UNAIDS), programme financial resources on the basis of the budget approved by the PCB;
  - (iii) Select, supervise, promote and terminate all staff of the Secretariat acting within the staff regulations and rules of WHO which shall be adjusted, as necessary, to take into account the special needs of UNAIDS.
  - (iv) Establish such policy and technical advisory committees as he/she deems necessary in order to advise him/her on any aspect of UNAIDS. The Executive Director shall make available to the PCB and the CCO, as appropriate, the reports of such technical advisory committees. The members of such committees, to be selected by the Executive Director, shall serve in a personal capacity and represent a broad range of disciplines and experience;
  - (v) Delegate to the staff of the programme the authority necessary for the effective implementation of UNAIDS' activities.
8. In the performance of their duties the Executive Director and the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any government or from any authority external to the programme.

**Annex 2**

**Rules of Procedure  
of the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB)  
of UNAIDS**

**Conduct of Business**

Rule 1

The PCB may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 2

During the discussion of any matter, a member may rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the Chairperson. A member may appeal against the ruling of the Chairperson, in which case the appeal shall immediately be put to the vote. A member rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion but on the point of order only.

Rule 3

During the course of a debate the Chairperson may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the PCB, declare the list closed. The Chairperson may, however, accord the right of reply to any member if in his/her opinion a speech delivered after the list was declared closed makes it desirable.

Rule 4

During the discussion of any matter, the Chairperson, with the consent of the PCB, may adjourn the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 5

The Chairperson may at any time, with the consent of the PCB, close the debate on the item under discussion whether or not any other member has signified the wish to speak.

**Voting**

Notwithstanding the principle in paragraph 25 of the PCB Modus Operandi, the following rules shall apply should the PCB decide to proceed to a vote:

Rule 6

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "members present and voting" means those members with the right to vote casting a valid affirmative or negative vote. Members abstaining from voting shall be considered as not voting.

Rule 7

The decisions of the PCB shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 8

If the votes are equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as not adopted.

Rule 9

The PCB shall normally vote by show of hands, except that any member may request a roll-call which, if the majority so agree, shall then be taken in the alphabetical order of the names of the members.

The name of the member to vote first shall be determined by lot.

Rule 10

The vote of each member participating in any roll-call shall be inserted in the records.

Rule 11

After the Chairperson has announced the beginning of voting, no member shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of voting.

Rule 12

Elections shall normally be held by secret ballot. If there is only one candidate the PCB may decide to proceed to elect the candidate without taking a ballot.

Rule 13

The PCB may vote on any matter by secret ballot if it has previously so decided by a majority of the members present and voting, provided that no secret ballot may be taken on budgetary questions.

A decision under this rule by the PCB whether or not to vote by secret ballot may only be taken by a show of hands; if the PCB has decided to vote on a particular question by secret ballot, no other mode of voting may be requested or decided upon.

Rule 14

Any of these rules may be suspended by the PCB by a two-thirds majority.

Rule 15

The PCB may amend or supplement these rules.

Rule 16

The PCB may at its discretion apply such rules of procedure of equivalent meetings of the World Health Organization, the Agency providing administrative support to UNAIDS, as it may deem appropriate to particular circumstances for which provision does not exist in these rules.