

# UNAIDS IEOAC MEETING NOTES

## MEETING 10

Date: 29 May 2023

Venue: Virtual

### PARTICIPANTS

**Committee Members:** Ms Agnieszka Golebiowska, Mr David Kanja (Chair), Ms Hélène Rossert (Vice Chair)

**Secretariat Support:** Mr Morten Ussing, Director of Governance and Multilateral Affairs; Ms Samia Lounnas, Senior Governance Advisor; Mr Kodo Ngabane, Governance Officer

### MEETING AGENDA

1. Introduction
2. EXD opening remarks
3. Chair of IEOAC opening remarks
4. Presentation of the outcomes and recommendations of the virtual meeting held from 22-24 May 2023
5. Discussion and Q&A
6. Conclusion

UNAIDS management members who attended the meeting included the Deputy Executive Director for the Programme Branch, the Chief of Staff, the Director of Management, and the Director of Planning, Finance and Accountability. The Executive Director was unable to attend due to pressing, late-breaking work demands.

The IEOAC Chair summarized the Committee's advice in the Committee's 2023 annual report to the PCB. (The presentation is included as Attachment 1.) The Chair summarized the IEOAC's advice with respect to financial and performance reporting, internal audit function, investigation function, ethics function, follow-up and monitoring of internal and external oversight recommendations, and meetings with heads of oversight functions. The Chair also advised UNAIDS management on proposed changes to the IEOAC terms of reference as well as the development of the IEOAC's rules of procedure.

Participating UNAIDS management members welcomed the IEOAC's advice and indicated that they were in agreement with most of the recommendations. The IEOAC's advice to expand the scope of internal audits to include efficiency and economy as well as compliance was welcomed, and optimism was expressed regarding the ability of UNAIDS to reverse the declining trends on internal controls documented by internal audits over the last three years. Senior management encouraged the IEOAC to acknowledge in its annual report the progress that has been made in clearing pending audit recommendations. Regarding the backlog of investigations, there was a discussion regarding whether the backlog stemmed from the lack of a dedicated UNAIDS budget for investigations or the failure of the World Health Organization's Office of Internal Oversight Services (WHO/IOS) to devote sufficient capacity to UNAIDS investigations.

The discussion following the Chair's presentation also touched on the UNAIDS funding situation, which the IEOAC as identified as a key organizational risk. Regarding the IEOAC's advice to take action to address changes to the core fund balance, it was noted by management that steps have been taken by management to reverse the downward trend in the fund balance, including by living within the reduced funding anticipated moving forward.

UNAIDS management engaged in discussion with the IEOAC regarding performance reporting. In particular, IEOAC members commented on the predominance of "green lights" in the latest performance monitoring report, which suggests that the Joint Programme is on track in delivering on its targeted results. Management agreed that UNAIDS performance targets may have been set somewhat conservatively for 2022, in part to account for performance challenges potentially associated with the significant organizational changes that have been undertaken. As to whether the 2022 performance monitoring report might send the wrong signal by suggesting the Joint Programme's ability to deliver in the face of substantial budget shortfalls, management advised that there was likely to be a delayed impact on performance due to the departure of staff in 2022.

In response to the IEOAC's concerns regarding evidence of considerable staff discontent highlighted in the 2022 Global Staff Survey, management acknowledged that recent organizational changes had been painful for staff, especially for those stationed in Geneva. UNAIDS is currently undergoing a MOPAN evaluation, which might help crystallize and clarify key issues associated with the organization at this stage in its history and in the broader AIDS response. UNAIDS management underscored the importance of using data to adjust organizational strategies from year to year in order to optimize its impact.

The IEOAC Chair thanked UNAIDS management for its engagement with the IEOAC over the last year and said that the Committee would take steps to incorporate aspects of the management's feedback in its annual report to the PCB.

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