2 ISSUE PAPER FOR THE SESSION:
Issues raised by the Lancet-UNAIDS Commission

Background

- The Commission is in part a means by which to help ensure that AIDS is visible in the post-2015 agenda — an agenda far broader and more complex than the MDGs (bargaining on climate and risk management financing, tied up with poverty alleviation in a universal framework).
- One aim of the Commission is to leverage the networks of the diverse range of Commissioners to influence the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) and other post-2015 processes (as well as processes outside the post-2015 agenda — given that a framework may not be agreed, may be watered down, may not serve as the only framework for development post-2015 — considering the waning element of ODA).
- Although some Commissioners are intellectual leaders, champions, practitioners on HIV (for example The Honourable Justices Kirby and Cameron on human rights), the Commissioners have a range of backgrounds and expertise, including private sector, civil society, development and HIV. As such, not all have a full or deep understanding of the diverse issues in the AIDS response. Consequently, part of the process is to facilitate exchange, sensitize Commissioners to the complexities of the AIDS response, and support them to craft recommendations and messages that they can disseminate in their networks.
- The UNAIDS Human Rights Reference Group has a critical role to play in informing Commissioners about relevant human rights concerns and ensuring that the messages and recommendations of the Commission are rights-based and consistent with best practice and the aspirations of the human rights and social justice movements.

The Commission’s work to date

Three issues are being considered by the Commission. Each has substantive and political elements. The issues are:

1. The End of AIDS: galvanize the world around a compelling target.
2. **Lessons from AIDS for global health and development:** demonstrate the relevance of the AIDS response and lessons learned from it to the agendas of the global health and sustainable development crowd.

3. **Health Architecture:** Despite concerns about complexity, transaction costs and the need to reform health architecture to support more integrated approaches in post-2015, health architecture issues have not been raised in the health thematic consultation or other discussions on post-2015. In keeping with the bold history of the AIDS response, the UNAIDS Executive Director wanted to provide a platform for discussion of these issues. Getting the architecture right to end AIDS is UNAIDS’ primary concern, but there are spill-over effects for other agendas, and it does not make sense to discuss AIDS architecture in isolation. Recently, a group of Ambassadors to the UN in Geneva met informally to discuss the theme.

The Commission met in Lilongwe at the end of June, discussed three themes relevant to each of the above-mentioned questions, and issued a report. The themes were:

1. Financing beyond ODA;
2. Innovation in R&D and service delivery; and

Following the meeting, and largely on the basis of Michael Kirby’s suggestion, the Commission issued a communiqué to Ban Ki-moon expressing concern that the High-level Panel’s Report largely overlooks the issues of HIV and the right to health, but optimism that ample opportunity remains to ensure that the Secretary-General’s vision of “a future free of AIDS” will be reflected in the evolving agenda. Three Working Groups (WGs) were established, one for each of the questions mentioned above.

**Working group structure:**

- WGs are chaired by Commissioners and are relatively independent of UNAIDS;
- Chairs identified WG members with whom they could work so these may not be broadly representative;
- Papers represent initial thinking of the WGs which had limited time to discuss and draft these papers;
- Papers are being circulated in regional dialogues and with think tanks, as well as through virtual discussion (closed youth
platform) and posted on Lancet website for public comment (where the JALI group has made a strong plug for the FCGH); and

- Summary reports of the consultations will be submitted to WG chairs and synthesized in a report for the Commission. Based on consultations, papers will be revised by WGs and amalgamated into draft report to be discussed by the Commission when it meets in mid-Feb (report launch May or June).

**Issues to be considered by the Reference Group**

The Reference Group could:

- Discuss and submit consolidated responses on each of the papers to the Working Group chairs — providing examples, evidence, comments, recommendations, language;
- Submit a statement to the Commission co-chairs; or
- Request that Michael Kirby raise these issues at the next and final face-to-face meeting of the Commission to be held in London 13-14 February if they are not adequately dealt with in the Commission’s report.

Beyond commenting on the discussion papers, the Reference Group should consider:

- How to most productively frame human rights arguments in relation to each of the three questions (for example, can the agreement on a universal agenda be linked to pre-existing agreement on human rights principles/standards);
- How to leverage the human rights related messages and recommendations to be issued by the Commission in different venues — what are the openings/opportunities/allies? and
- Providing support to the process of relevant target/indicator development.

This issue paper was prepared by UNAIDS and Ralf Jürgens, to facilitate discussion at the Reference Group’s December 2013 meeting.

Please see the Summary and Recommendations report of the Reference Group’s Fifteenth Meeting for an overview of the discussion at the meeting and the Reference Group’s recommendations.