

# **International HIV Treatment as Prevention Workshop**

## ***Political Segment:***

### **What new targets for treatment? Which aim? Which resources?**

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 1 April 2014

This note outlines the political segment for the upcoming annual International HIV Treatment as Prevention Workshop.

#### **General background**

The International HIV Treatment as Prevention Workshop brings together academic, policy, industry, and community representatives to review and discuss research and policy progress in the field of HIV treatment as prevention.

The BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS has hosted this event since 2011. The event is co-hosted by UNAIDS and the U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse.

#### **The political segment**

The world has united around the goal of reaching at least 15 million people on HIV treatment. Substantial strides have been made, and evidence suggests that the world is currently on track to achieve this target.

Since 2011, when countries agreed to this global treatment target, critical new evidence has emerged demonstrating the therapeutic and preventive benefits of early initiation of HIV treatment. This new evidence prompted WHO to revise its HIV treatment guidelines in 2013 to recommend increasing the threshold for treatment initiation from 350 to 500 CD4 count. For certain groups of people living with HIV, WHO now recommends initiation of HIV treatment regardless of CD4 count.

The 2013 WHO guidelines substantially increases the number of people eligible for HIV treatment. However, even if the world meets its target of reaching at least 15 million people with HIV treatment, under these new guidelines this would still leave roughly half of those who need treatment without it. As the HIV treatment agenda will remain unfinished when the current target expires, it is clear that a new target is needed to drive further progress, expedite scale-up, and ensure accountability and transparency in the response.

Although the 2013 WHO guidelines represent an important step towards aligning treatment practice with scientific evidence, countries have been slow to implement

these evidence-based guidelines. Moreover, additional updates of the guidelines are inevitable, which will require policy makers and programme implementers to remain flexible in adapting approaches to new scientific evidence.

It is in this context that UNAIDS is supporting the inclusion of a political segment with the aim of 1) facilitating a high-level dialogue to address the political barriers that prevent treatment scale-up and 2) discuss the needed steps toward the rapid adoption of new global treatment targets.

### **Design of the political segment**

A single Davos-style roundtable, bringing together key national decision-makers and pivotal international partners, will explore the importance of new treatment targets, drawing on best practices and country-led examples. The roundtable will be informed by the results of modelling exercises regarding the health and economic benefits of rapid treatment scale-up. As the meeting is occurring in a Canadian province that has established the foundation to end its AIDS epidemic through scaled-up testing, treatment and prevention programmes, side bar meetings with local and provincial politicians will be arranged in collaboration with the host.

**Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>: Day 1 – Opening - Vancouver Convention Centre (West Building)**

12:00-15:00 Registration Check-in Desk, Ballroom A Foyer, Level 1, West Building

13:00-15:00 Lunch and Networking for all delegates (Ballroom A Foyer)

**15:30 Opening Session (Ballroom A)**

15:30-15:45 Introductory remarks and welcome message

15:45-18:00 **Roundtable: *Towards New HIV Treatment Targets* (Ballroom A)**

**Keynote Address**

Dr. Luiz Loures, Deputy Executive Director, UNAIDS

**Message from The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria**

Dr. Mark Dybul, Executive Director

**Roundtable**

*Moderator:* Pamela Martin, former journalist and Liaison to the Premier of British Columbia

Addresses by:

Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Health, British Columbia

Honourable Miatta Kargbo, Minister of Health and Sanitation, Sierra Leone

Honourable Clarice Modeste-Curwen, Minister of Health, Grenada

Christine Nabiryo, The AIDS Support Organization

Julio Montaner, British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS

**Facilitated dialogue**

**Closing remarks by Dr. Luiz Loures**

18:00 Day 1 concludes