Engaging parliamentarians in securing financial and policy investment to progress sexual and reproductive-related SDGs in the Asia-Pacific region

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The SDGs and Parliaments

"We acknowledge the essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments" Declaration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

"Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels" Goal 16

The SDGs, parliaments, and the United Nations

UN system built on 3 foundations: peace and security, human rights, and sustainable human development

SDGs recognise that without sustainable human development, there can be no peace, and no human rights

Without good governance, there can be no sustainable human development

Without accountability, there can be no good governance

Without an effective parliament, there can be no accountability

UNDP's role

UNDP is the UN's development arm, currently operating in some 170 countries and territories

Good governance – underpinning structural transformations – is one of UNDP's "signature services" and its single largest area of global activity. Health, HIV, and Development also key.

UNDP partners with 80 parliaments, worldwide, including 15 in the Pacific, to strengthen their processes and capacities

A fundamental driver is to help parliaments take a human rights approach to effective SDG implementation monitoring

The Global Commission on HIV and the Law

Convened by UNDP and UNAIDS in 2012, chaired by fmr Pres Cardozo (Brazil), comprised 14 international experts from the judiciary and politics. I was appointed to the Commission before working for UNDP, when NZ shadow A-G

Landmark 2012 report distilled evidence from regional (including Asia-Pacific) & virtual global hearings to demonstrate that repealing bad laws & enacting good ones was the most cost-effective anti-HIV policy intervention

Since 2012, UNDP has implemented the recommendations of the report via its governance and health programming in 80 partner countries.

With UNDP support, Commission members launched a supplement to the report at the International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam in July 2018

The supplement covered events and trends since 2012, as well as intersectionality with TB and Malaria, an update on gender, and SRHR

The Global Commissioners (5/14 from Asia-Pacific)



Dame Carol Kidu (Papua New Guinea



Ana Helena Chacón-Echeverria

Michael Kirby (Australia)



Barbara Lee (United States





(Botswana)



Stephen Lewis (Canada)







Why the law matters Annual number of new HIV infections 3.5 among adults aged 15-49 3.0 historical trend current trend Current legal and 2.5 -2.0 -1.5 structural change* policy environment * change to legal and policy environment 1.0 With interventions for enhanced legal and policy 0.5 environment 0.0

Source: Results for Development Institute, Costs & Choices: Financing the Long-Term Fight Against AIDS, An aids2031 Project, 2010.

1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020 2025 2030







% HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men

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Why the law matters: drug use



Consistent resistance to harm reduction and punitive approaches









Questions and Comments

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