

14 September 2009

REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE aids2031 LEADERSHIP ONLINE SURVEY

Dear Colleague

As a fellow leader in the global response to HIV, I am writing to ask you to participate in an important online research project that seeks your input and opinions on the future course of the HIV epidemic. This research is part of **aids2031**—an HIV “think tank” project which is aimed at shifting the global response to HIV from a short-term reactive, emergency response to a long-term proactive, strategic framework that would mitigate the consequences of the HIV epidemic.

The 2006 Toronto International Conference on AIDS coincided with the 25th anniversary of the appearance in the press of what would become to be known as the first reported cases of AIDS.

A reporter asked me at the conference what lessons we had learned in the first 25 years of the AIDS pandemic. My response was that instead of looking backwards we should be looking ahead 25 years and begin to make changes now that would change the course of the epidemic. The vision for 2031—50 years from the onset of AIDS—is of everyone on treatment who needs to be, no new infections in that year and the consequences of HIV having been mitigated. This exchange planted the seed of **aids2031**.

aids2031 has convened nine working groups of stakeholders in the HIV epidemic, including economists, epidemiologists, and biomedical, social and political scientists to help make recommendations towards a long-term strategic framework of the epidemic.

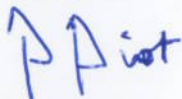
While science offers us understanding, tools and technology to prevent and treat HIV, it is leaders who have rolled out services and secured the rights of people to access information, prevention, and treatment. Whether they are from grassroots organizations, multinational NGOs, the business sector, government, or the media, progress in the AIDS movement has always relied on leaders. This is why we need your opinions, your insights and your recommendations now, as we prepare a long-range framework to strategically guide the future response to the HIV epidemic.

The answers you provide will help the Leadership Working Group to formulate recommendations that will ultimately form part of the **aids2031** final report, “An Agenda for the Future”. The results of the survey will also be published separately as a free-standing report.

The survey questionnaire can be reached by visiting this website: <http://www.un-ngls.org/aids2031>. You will find all the information you require to complete the questionnaire at this site. It should take you approximately an hour to complete the questionnaire. We believe that helping formulate a long-term plan for the future of the global response is well worth the time you are asked to invest.

I thank you in advance for taking the time to provide us with your valuable insights about the future.

All the best,



Professor Peter Piot

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