FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

President Bill Clinton, UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé and activist Sir Bob Geldof to address the 20th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014)

The complete AIDS 2014 conference programme now online – www.aids2014.org

Tuesday, 24 June 2014 (Geneva, Switzerland) – Organizers of the 20th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014) announced today that President Bill Clinton, founder of the Clinton Foundation and 42nd President of the United States, UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé and artist and activist Sir Bob Geldof will be among the high-level speakers who will join thousands of the world's top AIDS researchers, community leaders, people living with HIV and policy-makers at AIDS 2014 taking place July 20-25 in Melbourne, Australia.

"AIDS 2014 gathers representatives of science, civil society, politics, and private sector to discuss together at an international level the most pressing issues linked to HIV/AIDS. It is only with an open and collaborative dialogue that we can advance in the response to HIV and to other health threats and having such high-level speakers will amplify the lasting impact of the conference" said Professor Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, AIDS 2014 International Chair, President of the International AIDS Society (IAS) and Director of the Regulation of Retroviral Infections Unit at the Institut Pasteur in Paris.

UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé and renowned jurist and academic Michael Kirby will also deliver keynote addresses at the opening ceremony.

President Bill Clinton will deliver the keynote address on Wednesday 23 July.

Musician, business entrepreneur and political activist Sir Bob Geldof will be the guest speaker at a session on Thursday 24 July sharing his views on the challenges ahead for defeating HIV in the developing world, and in addition he will deliver a speech at the closing session on Friday, 25 July.

Other key events include, the plenary session on Monday 21 July with an address on the "Future of Science in the HIV Response" by Tony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; Mark Dybul, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, will speak on investment in the HIV response; Helen Clark, Administrator of United Nations Development Programme, will present the future of the HIV response in the post-2015 landscape; and Sean Strub, Writer, Activist, and Director of The Sero Project will moderate a debate on how new prevention technologies affect disclosure, prevention and stigma.

The entire AIDS 2014 programme is now available online through the Programme-at-a-Glance. With this interactive system all conference sessions, programme activities and satellites are available. Links to abstracts, slide presentations, rapporteur reports and e-posters will be added as they become available.

“We are confident that delegates attending AIDS 2014 will take advantage of the many opportunities for sharing best practices, hearing new research and building the base for future collaboration,” said Professor Sharon Lewin, Local Co-Chair of AIDS 2014, Head of the Department of Infectious Diseases, Alfred Hospital and Monash University and Co-Head of the Centre for Biomedical Research at the Burnet Institute in Melbourne.

“Having such leaders in attendance shows that HIV and AIDS remains a global challenge which needs strong political and scientific leadership. We also encourage delegates to experience the other activities at the conference including the vibrant Global Village and Youth Pavillion and cultural activities taking place in Melbourne for AIDS 2014”

Confirmed high level speakers at AIDS 2014:

Gretchen Bachman, Senior Orphans and Vulnerable Children Technical Advisor, USAID, United States
Ambassador Deborah Birx, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator
Peter Botten, Managing Director and Executive Director, Oil Search Limited
Richard Branson, Founder of Virgin Group (joining by video link)
James Chau, Journalist and UNAIDS Goodwill Ambassador, China
Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme
Bill Clinton, founder of the Clinton Foundation and 42nd President of the United States
David Davis, Minister of Health, Victoria, Australia
Robert Doyle, Lord Mayor of Melbourne
Mark Dybul, Executive Director, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Anthony Fauci, Head of National institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, United States
Bob Geldof, artist and activist
Eric Goosby, University of California, San Francisco
Michel Kazatchkine, UNSG's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia
Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union Commission, Ethiopia
Michael Kirby, Former Justice of the High Court of Australia
Nafsiah Mboi, Minister of Health, Indonesia
Philippe Meunier, Ambassador for the fight against HIV/AIDS and Communicable Diseases, France
Festus Mogae, Former President of Botswana and Chairman, Coalition for Dialogue in Africa
Denis Napthine, Premier of Victoria
Anders Nordström, Ambassador for Global Health, Sweden
Molosiwa Selepeng, Botswana High Commissioner
Michel Sidibé, Executive Director, UNAIDS
Dan Sultan, Artist
Rhonda Zygocki, Executive Vice President for Policy and Planning, Chevron Corporation

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Notes to Editors

All media are encouraged to register as early as possible. Registering will automatically place media representatives on a database enabling them to receive important press announcements in the lead up to the International AIDS Conference.

For more information on media registration process and requirements please visit:
http://www.aids2014.org/Default.aspx?pageId=668

All visitors to Australia must have a valid visa before boarding their plain regardless the length of stay. For more information about visit requirements please visit:
http://www.aids2014.org/Default.aspx?pageId=611

AIDS 2014 on Social Media

Facebook: www.facebook.com/InternationalAIDSConference
Twitter: @AIDS_conference_#AIDS2014
LinkedIn: International AIDS Conference
YouTube: www.youtube.com/iasaidsconference

About AIDS 2014

The 20th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014) is the premier gathering for those working in the field of HIV, including scientists, medical practitioners, activists, policymakers, people living with HIV and others committed to ending the epidemic. It will be a tremendous opportunity for researchers from around the world to share the latest scientific advances in the field, learn from one another's expertise, and develop strategies for advancing all facets of our collective efforts to treat and prevent HIV. AIDS 2014 is expected to convene over 12,000 participants from nearly 200 countries, including over 800 journalists. The conference will be held from 20–25 July 2014 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

AIDS 2014 Conference Organization

AIDS 2014 is convened by the IAS and permanent partners the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+); the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO); the International Community of Women with HIV/AIDS (ICW), and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Non-permanent partners are the Positive Women's Network and Sidaction.

The Australian based partners are: the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM); and the National Association of people with HIV Australia (NAPWHA).

The Asia Pacific Partners are: The Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW); the AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific (ASAP); and the National AIDS Research of India (NARI).

About the IAS

The International AIDS Society (IAS) is the world's leading independent association of HIV professionals, with over 16,000 members from more than 177 countries working at all levels of the global response to AIDS. The IAS members include researchers from all disciplines, clinicians, public health and community practitioners on the frontlines of the epidemic, as well as policy and programme planners.

The IAS is custodian of the biennial International AIDS Conference, which will be held in Melbourne, Australia, 20-25 July 2014 and lead organizer of the IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, which will be held in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, 19-22 July 2015.
www.iasociety.org | www.aids2014.org | www.ias2015.org

For more information:

Siân Bowen (Geneva, Switzerland)
Senior Manager, Communications, IAS & AIDS 2014
Email: Sian.Bowen@iasociety.org
Tel: +41 22 710 0864

Francesca Da Ros (Geneva, Switzerland)
Senior Coordinator, Communications and Media, IAS & AIDS 2014
Email: Francesca.Daros@iasociety.org
Tel: +41 22 710 0822
Lucy Stackpool-Moore (Melbourne, Australia)
Local Communications Coordinator, AIDS 2014
Email: lucy.stackpool-moore@aids2014.org
Tel: +61414448253