Report from the meeting of The Lancet- University of Oslo Commission on Global Governance for Health at the Bellagio Centre 4-8 February 2013

The purpose of the work session was to advance the work on the Commission report which is to be published by The Lancet in September. Half of the Commission members participated in the meeting, together with researchers from the University of Oslo and Harvard Global Health Institute.

During the course of the meeting, the Commissioners took part in group and plenary discussions relating to the different parts of the report.

A recap of outcomes of the meeting:

It was agreement to keep the three tier structure of the Commission messages as suggested during the previous Commission meeting in November:

- Message 1: A call for a paradigm shift about health, injustice and global action
- Message 2: Six major/global determinants of health
- Message 3: A line of policy recommendations for immediate consideration

In terms of recommendations, the Commission decided that recommendations should focus on the identified global governance challenges, but make reference to specific issues for health to give concreteness and specificity to the report. There was general support for elevating the recommendations to address the big political issues in the global governance system. Technical advice, such as mechanisms for improving collaboration between sectors or IGOs, may not be sufficient to overcome powerful interests which are impeding the current global governance system from solving major global problems.

The Commission aims to align itself to larger movements and debates and considered how to merge the on-going processes and agendas of the Post 2015 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) debates.

The Commission wants to make sure the report becomes more accessible and valuable to people beyond academia and policy levels (requires simplified language, internet access etc).

Commitments for further action

The Commission’s research team will now continue to work on the report in close collaboration with Commissioners. The meeting in Bellagio did not result in concrete proposals for recommendations and a lot of work has to be undertaken in the months to come. The final draft of the report will be presented at the final Commission meeting in Oslo from 12 to 13 April 2013. Here the final adjustments will be made, before submission to The Lancet in May 2013.