



PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON THE WORLD BANK

Donors commit US\$ 4.3 billion to the GAVI Alliance

13 June 2011

The first pledging conference of the Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) took place 13 June 2011 in London. The conference was a success in achieving a donor commitment of more than US\$4.3 billion for the immunisation of over 250 million of the world's poorest children by 2015. In the week prior to the conference vaccine manufacturers also committed to lower their prices for life-saving vaccines, including a two-thirds reduction on the rotavirus vaccine, which combats the leading cause of diarrhoea deaths.

Hosted by the governments of the United Kingdom, Liberia, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the first pledging conference of GAVI brought together heads of states, ministers and high-level officials from donor and developing countries, as well as UN agencies, CEOs from the private sector, and senior civil society members. The conference saw governments more than double their previous commitments, and welcomed new donors from both the public and private sector. The amount pledged by donors exceeded the initial target of US\$3.7 billion. The current pledges bring GAVI's total available resources for the period 2011 to 2015 to US\$7.6 billion.

One of the main challenges for vaccines in developing countries is the cost. There is a 17-20 year time lag between the availability of vaccines in developed and developing countries. GAVI provides financing for the delivery and introduction of vaccines in the different stages of clinical trials. The outcome of the June conference is thus a historic achievement in global health and will prevent more than four million premature deaths. Reflecting on the successful outcome of the conference Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, said that "for the first time in history, children in developing countries will receive the same vaccines against diarrhea and pneumonia as children in rich countries".

The GAVI Alliance is a partner of PNoWB, and its members have been active in lobbying their respective governments to push for the reduction of vaccination prices in developing countries. During the 2011 World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings in Washington D.C., GAVI and PNoWB discussed their cooperation in advocacy and out-reach and how parliamentarians can support GAVI initiatives in their own countries. More information on the meeting is available in [PNoWB's 2011 Spring Meetings Report](#). PNoWB Vice-Chair Marie Rose Nguini Effa, Chairperson of the Pan-African Parliament's Health, Labour and Social Affairs Committee, has been particularly active on questions related to healthcare access in developing countries, including for vaccines. In 2011, PNoWB members have an opportunity to work toward greater aid effectiveness when it comes to vaccines at the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to take place in November in Busan, Korea. The Forum is a great opportunity for MPs to discuss how aid can be employed more efficiently to allow for greater access to vaccination in their respective countries.

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