

Consultation on *European Commission Health Strategy 2007*

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Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the preparation of the European Commission Health Strategy. As an international coalition of public-private product development partnerships (PDPs) working for health solutions for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other neglected diseases, we are driven by common objectives of developing appropriate and affordable preventive and therapeutic tools for use in developing countries. We applaud the EC's leadership in the fight against diseases of poverty and its active role as a major aid donor. We are especially encouraged by the Health Commission's plan to undertake global health as a challenge. We have taken the opportunity to provide a joint statement in response to section 4.3 of the discussion document.

4.3 Responding to global health issues – Challenge: to increase effective EU action on health at the global level

Every day more than 35,000 people die from AIDS, TB, malaria and neglected diseases. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) call for immediate action to reverse the incidence of the diseases. The MDGs also emphasize the need to forge and support global partnerships to harness scientific advancement to promote development. Only a small percentage of the funding for research and development (R&D) worldwide is dedicated to creating new technologies for diseases of the developing world – these funds are insufficient to deliver the new drugs, vaccines and other technologies that are urgently needed to fight these diseases as a public health threat, and to meet development targets.

We urge the EC to play a leading role in ensuring sustained financial support for essential health R&D through innovative and cost-effective mechanisms such as PDPs, to facilitate the development and roll-out of new health technologies to fight against HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and other neglected diseases.

We ask that the following statement be included in the Health Strategy, section 4.3:

“In the context of responding to global health issues it is imperative to emphasize the role of research and development (R&D) in forging a comprehensive approach to public health threats. The Health Strategy will review current approaches that encourage R&D for poverty diseases and will work with other sections of the European Commission that promote innovation, scientific development and ensure the effective use of new health technologies, such as DG Research, DG Enterprise and DG Development.”



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