

Beijing Declaration
At the International Pledging Conference on Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza
(Consolidated version Jan.6, 2006)

17-18 January 2006, Beijing

The International Pledging Conference on Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza was convened in Beijing, China on 17-18 January 2006 under the co-sponsorship of the Government of the People's Republic of China, the European Commission and the World Bank and in close coordination with the World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). The conference was attended by representatives of XX countries from around the world, representatives of international technical agencies, organizations, the private sector and civil society.

The conference was organized to promote, mobilize, and help coordinate financial support from the donor community for the national, regional and global response to avian influenza and to support efforts at all levels to preparation for a possible human influenza pandemic. The pledging conference drew on recommendations previously developed by the international community including *the Resolution of Enhancing Capacity-building in Global Public Health* adopted at the 60th Session of UN General Assembly and the FAO/OIE/WHO/World Bank-sponsored International Meeting on Avian Influenza and Human Pandemic Preparedness held in Geneva on 7-9 November, 2005.

The world is faced with the emergence of a highly pathogenic disease, avian influenza, which like SARS and HIV/AIDS respects no national boundaries. Avian influenza has now spread from Asia to the Middle East and Europe following the path of migrating birds with the prospect that the disease might also spread to Latin America and Africa. A number of human casualties have already been confirmed and there is a real possibility that further mutation of the virus strain might result in sustained human-to-human transmission and a human influenza pandemic.

In a globalizing world, if not detected, reported promptly, and contained effectively, the pandemic could potentially kill millions, and significantly affect global finance, trade, and security. Therefore, we must take coordinated, rapid and decisive actions to prevent, prepare for, and control a human pandemic.

International technical agencies such as FAO, WHO, and OIE have been playing a pivotal role in informing the response by developing global strategies to control avian influenza and prevent a human influenza pandemic. Others, such as the European Commission and the World Bank, have been active in mobilizing the donor community and partner countries to engage into a more strategic and coordinated approach. International and regional initiatives by the US, Canada, APEC, ASEAN, African Union and European Union, as well as the recent Kunming Ministerial Conference for Avian Influenza Control Cooperation and the East Asia Summit, all provide encouraging

evidence of a coordinated international response. We applaud and support all these efforts.

However, the challenge remains daunting. We must take further coordinated actions to strengthen disease surveillance systems, and to develop much-needed capacity in veterinary and human laboratory diagnosis particularly in countries that are at especially high risk of infection and that have the greatest resource needs. It is imperative that the international community take all possible action to prevent the emergence of a possible human influenza pandemic. These actions must be taken now and together.

We, THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE:

1. Commit ourselves to ensuring effective development and implementation of integrated national action plans guided by political leadership at the highest level, to mobilizing resources in our countries, and to drawing upon government, civil society and the private sector to effect a coordinated response. In the context of our respective national plans, we agree to take vigorous prevention, mitigation, emergency preparedness, and rapid response measures in the short term together with action over the longer term to prevent and control the spread of the disease in the poultry and related industries and prevent direct human exposure to poultry and other potential disease vectors.
2. Subscribe to a long-term strategic partnership between the international community and the countries currently affected or at risk in which adequate and prompt financial and technical support is mobilized at the international level to complement the efforts by countries and regions, particularly developing countries. Priority should be given to developing capacity and infrastructure in animal and public health sectors, as well as undertaking complementary reforms in related sectors, as well as mitigation of the socio-economic impacts on the poorest people and households. The international community should conduct analysis and provide detailed guidance on a range of important issues – such as the appropriate structure for compensation systems – that respond to individual country circumstances.
3. Commit to sharing information related to the avian influenza situation in our countries in an open, rapid, and transparent manner, and ensure that good practices of avian influenza surveillance, control, and pandemic influenza preparedness are developed, disseminated, and applied in compliance with existing OIE standards on veterinary services and the newly adopted WHO International Health Regulations.
4. Commit to increasing transparency and cooperation on global research and development of quality vaccines and antiviral medicines to ensure affordable access for all who need them.
5. Commit to evaluating the results and the impact of our national action plans periodically, reviewing and updating them as necessary while adapting our

coordination mechanisms to enhance effectiveness as well as updating the global avian influenza control strategy and human pandemic preparedness plans by taking advantage of the expertise and the existing technical networks established by WHO, FAO and OIE and other relevant organizations and groups.

Finally, we welcome the proposal to coordinate financial contributions and pledges from international financial institutions and organizations, private foundations, development banks and donor countries. We see this as critical to facilitating the routing of pledged funds to priorities in integrated country action plans, as well as to regional and global actors leading the control and prevention efforts against the epidemic. We believe that these funds should be delivered and utilized on a prompt basis in accordance with the principles of aid effectiveness established in the Paris Declaration.