

To: Intergovernmental Working Group
From: Dr. Harvey E. Bale Jr., Director General, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA)
Subject: IGWG Draft Global Strategy

Summary

The IGWG Draft Global Strategy and Plan of Action could be an important opportunity for WHO and its Member States to propose concrete and constructive initiatives to increase and strengthen R&D for diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries; i.e., Type II and III diseases. Such initiatives would include:

increasing resources for the WHO TDR program;
strengthening existing PPPs addressing Type II and III diseases;
mapping remaining research gaps concerning Type II and III diseases and proposing constructive market-based incentives to address those gaps, such as advance market commitments;
incentives to promote R&D into Type II and III diseases by researchers and companies in developing countries and “south-south” collaboration.

Specific incentives to promote R&D into diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries could be:

a. **ADVANCE MARKET COMMITMENTS (AMC)**

AMCs are an innovative market-based ‘pull’ mechanism designed to accelerate research and development of pharmaceuticals, particularly vaccines, for diseases that affect the poorest countries, and to increase access to these products when they become available. AMCs represent legally-binding undertakings by donor governments and organizations to subsidize future purchases by developing countries of drugs and vaccines that are not yet available. The AMC pilot was launched on 9 February 2007, and it targets pneumococcal diseases.

b. **STRENGTHENING PUBLIC PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS (PPPs)**

PPPs are projects funded and run through a partnership of government and one or more private sector companies, as well as sometimes involving international organizations. They have proven to be very effective in mobilizing action and resources by a variety of stakeholders to address R&D and access needs successfully.

c. **EXPANDED FUNDING MECHANISMS**

Mechanisms to ensure that necessary funds on a sustainable basis are available to countries and communities to purchase new and existing drugs for tropical diseases.

d. **TROPICAL DISEASES ACTS IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES**

A legislative package aimed at providing a favorable framework of incentives to increase R&D for drugs targeting diseases predominantly affecting the developing countries.

Further constructive recommendations in the draft Strategy include measures to improve developing countries’ capacities in promoting drug quality, as well as urging countries to eliminate taxes and tariffs on health products.

We would add that in the area of capacity building it would be important to build developing countries’ capacity to develop and use the emerged global IP system. This system would benefit countries in the development of new drugs and vaccines for Type II and Type III diseases.

Attachment: Comments on IGWG Draft Global Strategy