

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON ADVANCE MARKET COMMITMENTS (AMCS) FOR VACCINES

Second meeting, HM Treasury, London, 9th November 2006

On Thursday 9th November, the technical Working Group on Advance Market Commitments (AMCs) for vaccines held its second meeting. It was hosted by the UK Treasury. The group's first meeting was held in Rome in September. The London meeting was attended by representatives from 15 countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States). A range of other institutions also participated in the meeting, including the European Commission, the World Bank, the Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), the Gates Foundation, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and industry representatives.

The Working Group reviewed the technical, institutional and financial aspects of a pilot Advance Market Commitment for a Pneumococcal vaccine. The group considered the technical work on the pilot AMC to be significantly advanced and agreed that the critical challenge now is to secure the donor financial commitments necessary for a launch. A number of donors reiterated their commitment to launching a pilot early in 2007 and encouraged others to consider joining them. Discussions between potential donors will continue over coming weeks.

BACKGROUND

AMCs offer a powerful and cost-effective market-based mechanism to accelerate the development and availability of priority new vaccines against diseases that currently kill millions of people in developing countries.

In January 2006, a consultation process was launched to advise on the technical aspects of a pilot AMC. The World Bank and GAVI have provided significant assistance on technical design issues. An Advisory Group brought together AMC stakeholders, academics and technical experts in the global health community to provide insight into the technical and structural options for the pilot. An independent Expert Committee was also convened to provide an independent recommendation on which vaccine would be most suitable for the initial AMC pilot.

The advisory process concluded that AMCs were a feasible, innovative, sustainable, cost-effective, results-oriented and market-based tool in the fight against global disease and poverty. The recommended candidate for the first AMC pilot is Pneumococcal disease. Pneumococcus kills around 1.6 million people a year, most of them children. A successful AMC would prevent roughly 5.4 million deaths by 2030. The Expert Committee also recommended that a second AMC for a malaria vaccine be explored to stimulate early R&D investment and to pilot the impact of the AMC on early stage vaccines. A successful Malaria AMC would prevent roughly 2 million deaths by 2030.