



The Honorable Gordon Brown
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland
London
United Kingdom

Mr. Robert Bruce Zoellick
President
World Bank
1818 H Street
Washington DC 20433
United States of America

10 March 2009

Dear Mr. Prime Minister and Mr. Zoellick,

We are writing to advise you of our strong support for your Task Force initiative to expand existing and explore new innovative financing instruments for health systems.

Specifically and in support of your leadership in this critical area, we intend to begin jointly programming GAVI Alliance and the Global Fund to fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) resources towards health systems strengthening.

GAVI and the GFATM were designed to build practical and innovative solutions for global health financing. Together GAVI and the GFATM have now become leading investors in health systems. We believe that combining our respective funding streams for health systems, in collaboration with the World Bank and others, is the practical next step required to make the health architecture more effective globally and at the country level, in line with the International Health Partnership (IHP) process. Joint programming would increase efficiency, focus international effort to this important area and, if framed around performance based funding for health outcomes, would accelerate progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Our proven country- and performance-driven financing model fits well with the goals of the IHP and we have been active participants in its development. Further, we have made significant progress in developing results-based approaches and innovative financing mechanisms such as the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm), the Advance Market Commitments (AMC) and Affordable Medicines Facility – malaria (AMFm). The World Bank has played an important role in these efforts. We would look to continue to work closely with the World Bank in developing the mechanisms that will underpin success in health systems finance going forward.

In a few short years, GAVI and the GFATM have grown into pathfinder organizations, which have effectively responded to requests from developing countries for health systems finance. However, this effort needs to be sustained and indeed expanded if years of under-investment

are to be addressed, ideally through a combination of front-loaded investment and recurrent long-term development finance. At a time of financial challenge in the world's economy, it is clear that innovation, focus and increased efficiency will be more critical than ever if we are to secure and build on the success of recent years.

It is time to take a comprehensive approach with the necessary support from key donors to refocus on all of the health-related MDGs as a renewed commitment to meeting the basic health service delivery needs in poor countries. We are willing and keen to do this. We are confident that results, even in the short term, can be leveraged by an additional stream of innovative financing that builds on existing instruments and partnerships for health system strengthening.

We look forward to discussing this further with your officials. With your support we are prepared to move in this direction promptly.

Yours sincerely,

Yours sincerely,



Julian Lob-Levyt
Chief Executive Officer
GAVI Alliance



Michel Kazatchkine
Executive Director
The Global Fund

Copied to:

President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf (Liberia)
Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg (Norway)
Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (Health Minister, Ethiopia)
Bernard Kouchner (Foreign Minister, France)
Giulio Tremonti (Finance Minister, Italy)
Heidmarie Wiecek-Zeul (UNSG Special Envoy for Finance for Development Conference and Development Minister, Germany)
Stephen Smith (Foreign Affairs Minister, Australia)
Margaret Chan (Director-General of the World Health Organization)
Graça Machel (President and Founder, Foundation for Community Development, Mozambique)
Philippe Douste-Blazy, UN Secretary General's Special Advisor for Innovative Financing