



9th July 2017

JOINT PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Global health coalition welcomes the G20 Leaders commitment to combat international health challenges

A coalition of [35 worldwide health advocates](#) as well as numerous individuals from research institutes, NGOs and members of national parliaments welcome the important progress made on the G20 communiqué, particularly the references made to global health in strengthening health systems and fostering international research through a stronger global collaboration for combatting pandemics and emerging and infectious diseases as well as for reducing antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The coalition especially welcomes that the G20 is committed to keep global health high on the political agenda within the frameworks of the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). The commitment by G20 Leaders to foster R&D preparedness through globally coordinated models as guided by the WHO R&D Blueprint, such as the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) highlights the need to foster R&D in global health and in particular for diseases at risk of AMR. This will also pave the way for countries to promote affordable access to antimicrobials, vaccines and diagnostics.

This global health coalition further agrees with the G20's commitment to the 2030 Agenda as the reference point for sustainable development, health and economic growth, including the German G20 Presidency's Marshall Plan for boosting economic growth in Africa.

Alan Donnelly, Executive Chairman of Sovereign Strategy and initiator of the G20 Global Health Coalition welcomes that G20 nations clearly committed to tackling AMR and to combatting infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis, Malaria and HIV/AIDS that present a growing health, economic and security threat across borders. *"We are pleased to see that our recommendations have been considered by the G20 Leaders and Sherpas,"* said Mr Donnelly by making references to an [Open Letter](#) that the coalition submitted ahead of the Hamburg summit and discussed in a [G20 Global Health Innovation Event in Berlin](#) which has held in Berlin earlier this year.

Mr Donnelly cordially thanks the G20 Leaders and Chancellor Angela Merkel on behalf of the Global Health Coalition for placing global health successfully on the G20 agenda alongside the pressing issues within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, world economy, trade and investment, employment, migration, strengthening the international financial architecture, climate and energy.

As the G20 affirms its role in strengthening the political support for long-established and recent initiatives, the Global Health Coalition stands by the commitment of G20 Leaders and Health Ministers to continue this dialogue on global health and prioritise health in, and by, the G20 under the forthcoming Argentinian Presidency of the G20.



QUOTES:

*"I welcome the positive response of the G20 leaders to our letter. AMR and poverty-related diseases are matters of vital importance to each person on our planet. We now have the opportunity to make greater progress in tackling them than ever before as long as good intentions are followed up by action." - **Jeremy Lefroy MP, UK Member of Parliament, Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund***

*"Investing in the health of people means you are investing in economic health. Healthy people create growth and productivity; they earn and pay taxes, which support services for those in need." - **John Bowis, Former UK Health Minister and MEP***

*"It is of historical importance that Heads of State of the G20 made Global Health a political priority and pledged to fuel the fight against anti-microbial resistance (AMR) and drug-resistant tuberculosis through increased research and product development. This is a key issue for the wellbeing and economic development of all G20 countries." – **Willo Brock, TB Alliance, Senior Vice President for External Affairs***

*"We strongly welcome the endorsement by G20 leaders of the need for universal health coverage. In combatting AMR, we urge that the specific challenges faced by low and middle income countries are taken into account while fostering responsible access to quality health products." – **Lelio Marmora, Executive Director of Unitaid***

*"G20 leadership on a broad vision to tackle AMR is critical to global health. AMR is a complex threat to global health security and spans a wide range of infections, including malaria. Resistance to current treatments is a long-standing problem among the parasite strains that cause malaria, and is gradually expanding geographically. This growing threat poses a major challenge to malaria elimination and eradication." – **Andrea Lucard, Executive Vice-President for External Relations, Medicines for Malaria Venture***

*"The G20 acted once again as a role model in setting and prioritising the agenda on global health. We welcome the G20 leaders' communique focusing on the fight against AMR, Pandemics and Poverty Related Diseases. Now it is the time for the G20 leaders to take up this responsibility and carry it on to the Argentinian G20 Presidency." - **Alan Donnelly, Executive Chairman of Sovereign Strategy***

*"The Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC) applauds the G20's call to support R&D to build preparedness, strengthen health systems, and mitigate against health crises, particularly as guided by the WHO R&D Blueprint and new initiatives like CEPI. – **Jamie Bay Nishi, Director, Global Health Technologies Coalition**"*

*"The support of the G20 in the fight against AMR is both welcome and essential to overcoming this public health threat. This emphasis will support the development and access to the medical technologies, including the diagnostics, with the potential to guide the effective use of antibiotics and minimize the spread of AMR infections." – **Medtech Europe***

*"We welcome the G20 commitment to focus on tackling antimicrobial resistances and pandemics, which is vital to engaging private and public sector investment to combat these global health threats." - **Richard Feiner, Adjunct Professor, Columbia University***



SOVEREIGN



TB ALLIANCE



Medicines for Malaria Venture



global health technologies coalition



Innovation in Global Health



MedTech Europe
from diagnosis to cure

NOTES TO THE EDITOR:

Why does the Health focus in the Communiqué matter?

- There is a serious new crisis of Multi Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR –TB) in China, Russia and India. 250.000 out of 580.000 people who have been diagnosed with MDR-TB died in 2015. India, China and Russia face 50% of this health challenge. This is mostly due to the countries' bad programmes in coping with these health challenges. Currently, more people die from Tuberculosis than from AIDS.
- Currently, only 1/3 of 194 member countries of the World Health Organisation (WHO) are promoting the fight against AMR. This has to change, which is why the G20 have now committed to be a role model and urged their members to put a clear strategy to combat AMR on their national health agenda. Progress in this area can stop more people dying from AMR than from cancer until 2050.
- Infection caused by multidrug-resistant bacteria and estimated additional health-care costs and productivity losses are at least 1.5 billion Euros each year.

Further information about [Global Health Innovation Event](#):

- The “Research for Impact and the G20: How can global health innovation drive sustainable development?” roundtable event, held on Friday 28th April 2017 at the Quadriga Forum in Berlin, Germany was organized by Sovereign Strategy and co-hosted with the following organizations: the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development (TB Alliance), Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), the Sabin Vaccine Institute, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), PATH (Program for Appropriate Technology in Health), the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC), the Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund, UNITAID and CARB-X.
- The one-day roundtable event involved opening and closing speeches, two sessions of moderated roundtable discussions, presentations on the G20 priority foci of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and pandemic preparedness, the B20 and its health initiative as well as the current project, its [“Call to Action”](#) (CTA) output document and discussions on how to carry it forward.
- The stated objective was to create a platform for cooperation and policy advocacy for an open and unique coalition of organizations following the declaration of the G20 Health Ministers and leading up to the G20 Hamburg Summit.
- The roundtable discussions are summarised in the [Rapporteur’s Report](#).
- Over 100 public and private health stakeholders backed four recommendations agreed the roundtable in a “Call to Action”, published ahead of the G20 Health Ministers summit.

Sovereign Strategy’s role in bringing the community together:

- On behalf of - and alongside - the co-hosts of this event, Sovereign Strategy has developed, managed and implemented this multi-stakeholder project over a number of months in order to bring global health advocates together to discuss areas of high importance both to the G20 and to the wider international community. Sovereign sees this multi-sectoral initiative as the beginning, rather than the culmination, of a critical dialogue. Sovereign Strategy is a leading independent public affairs and communications consultancy headquartered in Brussels and London and has been working in global development for a number of years specialising in areas such as global health and sustainable urbanisation.

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