

# SPECIAL EVENT ON PHILANTHROPY AND THE GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENDA

*23 February 2009, United Nations, New York*

*Trusteeship Chamber,*

*3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.*

**Dr. Julian Lob-Levyt**, Executive Director, GAVI Alliance

- The GAVI Alliance has harnessed and brought together the technical and logistical capacity of the international system, organizations like UNICEF, with the private business experience and efficiency of partners such as Goldman-Sachs and La Caixa Bank and Foundation to increase access to immunization in the poorest countries.
- We have introduced new vaccines into these countries and strengthened their health systems with the specific goal of improving health and reducing disease and mortality. Immunization alone can contribute 25% of the progress we must achieve for MDG 4. Global immunization rates have increased by almost 10% over the last 8-9 years. Measles, Hep B and Hib success stories. China and Hep B example.
- We also have created innovative financing mechanisms such as the IFFIm, which taps the capital markets to enable a massive scale-up of resources for immunization, and the AMC to overcome the market failure that typically delays by almost 2 decades the availability of new vaccine technologies and other essential medicines in the poorest countries.
- HPV is a very new, promising vaccine already protecting girls and women in wealthy countries. The challenge of making this new vaccine available in the poorest countries represents an opportunity for public and private institutions to address cervical cancer, the second most common cancer among women worldwide. 500,000 new cases every year and likely to grow to one million by 2050. 85 % of women dying from cervical cancer reside in developing countries. 75,000 die each year from this in India alone.
- Ensuring access to HPV vaccine is an opportunity to tackle a key women's health issue and to make a substantial contribution to MDG 5.

- The philanthropic and corporate communities have enormous communications capacities as well as financial strength. La Caixa, for example, representing one of the largest financial institutions in Europe and one of the largest foundations in the world, has provided not just financial support to enable GAVI to deliver new vaccines to children. By engaging its own clients and branding and communicating our partnership across Spain, we have informed hundreds of business leaders and their customers about the immunization challenge and offered them an opportunity to join us.
- The immunization sector faces numerous challenges beyond the initial challenge of long-term predictable resources. For example, the challenge of maintaining a reliable cold chain in the poorest countries; the challenge of securing and managing the most reliable data possible; or the challenge of communicating the benefits of new preventive care or treatments to people who live far from urban centers. As we have seen with HIV/AIDS, the private sector can help us mobilize interest in and demand for an HPV vaccine.
- We would not have been able to launch the IFFIm but for the experience of our private partners in working with the capital markets and in managing certain kinds of financial risk. These partners worked closely with our public side, the World Bank, for instance, to secure the highest level of efficiency as we launched the first bonds and they have helped us ensure best return on our donor's support.
- Our partners, both private and UN, also work together to ensure that our operational model is as efficient as can be. We are pleased with success that results in averting over 3 million deaths – but our private partners are trained to ask – could we have saved 5 million with the same financing?
- Our private partners also have been key to the Alliance' consideration of the pilot Advance Market Commitment for pneumococcal vaccines. Increasing our understanding of the market dynamics and failure that prevent rapid delivery of new vaccines in resource poor markets and helping us ensure an appropriate response to those dynamics.