

**Civil Society Call to Action for  
Greater Involvement in the GAVI Alliance**  
*GAVI Alliance Partners' Forum, Hanoi, Vietnam, 20 November 2009*

Today, on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as we celebrate the achievements of the GAVI Alliance over its 10-year history, we take note of the challenges that remain:

- 24 million infants are not reached by routine immunisation programmes each year.
- More lives can be saved by use of traditional, new and underutilised vaccines.
- Nearly one quarter of child deaths could be prevented by use of existing vaccines.

These specific challenges are at the core of GAVI's mission, and are linked to the broader challenges of reducing child mortality (MDG 4) and improving maternal health (MDG 5). Civil society organisations play a critical role in maternal and child health broadly, and immunisation specifically, through:

- education of families, communities, and health personnel,
- direct service provision,
- technical support,
- reaching the unreached,
- promoting the voice of marginalized communities, and
- advocacy.

***However:***

- Momentum and progress are hampered by inadequate funding commitments, including a US\$4 billion shortfall for the period 2010-2015, and prevailing high vaccine prices; yet the potential of civil society to help mobilise resources and carry out advocacy is underutilised.
- Lack of funds threatens rollout of pneumococcal, rotavirus, and meningitis A vaccines, preparation for the introduction of new vaccines such as HPV, and sustaining past mortality reduction gains achieved through immunisation.
- Civil society is not receiving national and international recognition and support commensurate with its important role.
- Civil society is insufficiently engaged at the policy and implementation levels of immunisation programmes globally and in-country and within GAVI's governance.

***Therefore, we, the undersigned members of civil society organisations, urge the GAVI Alliance to:***

- Facilitate civil society engagement as a constituency in the governance of the GAVI Alliance, including allocation of two seats for CSO representation on the GAVI Board – one each for northern and southern CSOs.

- Require a meaningful role for civil society in all GAVI funding to countries, including health system strengthening, with a specific focus on linking communities to the formal health system.
- Create an application process to provide direct funding to CSOs at national and sub-national levels.
- Fully involve civil society in the development of all aspects of the 2011-2015 GAVI Strategic Plan and the joint GAVI-Global Fund-World Bank health systems strengthening platform.

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