

G7 LEADERSHIP ON NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

The conclusion of the 2015 Group of 7 (G7) Summit, held June 7-8 in Schloss Elmau, Germany, offers promising news for people around the world who continue to endure the crushing burden of NTDs. Under Chancellor Angela Merkel's leadership, NTDs remained a priority on the 2015 agenda, devoting much needed attention and dialogue to an issue that affects the most vulnerable and neglected populations across the world.

Leaders of G7 nations – Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States – made a firm commitment to advance the fight against NTDs by investing in prevention and control efforts as well as by supporting priority areas in research and development. The G7 Leaders' Declaration also emphasized the importance of equal access to health services as part of their broader effort to strengthen health systems, including through community-based mechanisms – an approach that has proven to be highly successful in expanding access to NTD treatments.

Equally important, the G7 issued an additional statement, promising to engage the health, water, sanitation and hygiene; and education communities to boost efforts to end malnutrition. We urge the G7 to invest in comprehensive approaches to help expand access to treatments for intestinal worms, an

evidence-based, nutrition-specific intervention that improves pregnancy outcomes and childhood development.

This year's commitment builds on the G7's long-standing pledge to fight NTDs, dating as far back as the 1998 Birmingham Summit that established the Japanese-led historic Hashimoto Initiative – the first international parasitic disease control initiative.

Uniting to Combat NTD partners stand ready to marshal the very best talent, resources, knowledge and experience, to work side by side with the G7 to end these diseases once and for all. This year, 2015, offers a pivotal moment for the G7 to wrap up the unfinished NTD agenda and have an immediate, meaningful and sustainable impact, setting the stage for success as the world looks ahead to the new sustainable development goals.

The G7 Leaders' Declaration

Neglected Tropical Diseases

We commit ourselves to the fight against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). We are convinced that research plays a vital role in the development and implementation of new means of tackling NTDs. We will work collaboratively with key partners, including the WHO Global Observatory on Health Research and Development. In this regard we will contribute to coordinating research and development (R&D) efforts and make our data available. We will build on efforts to map current R&D activities, which will help facilitate improved coordination in R&D and contribute to better addressing the issue of NTDs. We commit to supporting NTD-related research, focusing notably on areas of most urgent need. We acknowledge the role of the G7-Academies of Science in identifying such areas. In particular, we will stimulate both basic research on prevention, control, treatment, and research focused on faster and targeted development of easily usable and affordable drugs, vaccines, and point-of-care technologies.

As part of our health system strengthening efforts we will continue to advocate accessible, affordable, quality, and essential health services for all. We support community-based response mechanisms to distribute therapies, and otherwise prevent, control and ultimately eliminate these diseases. We will invest in the prevention and control of NTDs in order to achieve 2020 elimination goals.

Annex to the G7 Leaders' Declaration

We commit to following an integrated multi-sectoral approach to improving food security and nutrition... We will pursue nutrition specific interventions that have proven to be effective in addressing under-nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. We will also strengthen our nutrition sensitive interventions in key sectors, such as agriculture, social protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, health, education, and improving food systems.