

Infectious Diseases: HIV/AIDS

Commitment

"We believe the time is right for the major scientific and other stakeholders -both public and private sector, in developed and developing countries — to come together in a more organized fashion....We endorse this concept and call for the establishment of a Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise."

G8 Action to Endorse and Establish a Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise

Background

In 2004, nearly 40 million people globally were estimated to be living with HIV. The AIDS epidemic claimed more than 3 million lives and close to 5 million people acquired the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in 2004.⁷⁹¹ Of the world's 23 million people living with HIV/AIDS more than 93% live in developing countries.⁷⁹² At the 2004 Sea Island Summit, the G8 reaffirmed their long standing commitment towards combating the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. While the G8's involvement in this area is not new, 2004 saw with it the appeal for the creation of a global HIV vaccine enterprise. The enterprise, as laid out in the G8 Action to Endorse and Establish a Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, should establish a strategic plan that should serve as a blueprint for helping to align better existing resources and to channel new resources more efficiently.⁷⁹³ Specifically, the plan should: "Encourage the development of a number of coordinated global HIV Vaccine Development Centers; stimulate the development of increased dedicated HIV vaccine manufacturing capacity; establish standardized preclinical and clinical laboratory assessment; expand an integrated international clinical trials system; optimize interactions among regulatory authorities; and encourage greater engagement by scientists from developing countries."⁷⁹⁴ This commitment is the latest effort in the G8 trichotomy of HIV treatment, care and prevention.

On 18 January 2005, the Global HIV Vaccine Initiative released its "Scientific Strategic Plan" detailing the Initiative's ten-year plan of research and development to combat HIV/AIDS.⁷⁹⁵ The plan was released in accordance with (but not necessarily in response to) G8 requests from the Sea Island Summit.

⁷⁹¹ UNAIDS, "AIDS Epidemic Update", December 2004. www.unaids.org/wad2004/report.html

⁷⁹² United Nations Development Programme, "Facts and Figures on Poverty", www.undp.org/teams/english/facts.htm

⁷⁹³ G8 Sea Island Summit, "Action to Endorse and Establish a Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise", 10 June 2004. www.g8usa.gov/d_061004d.htm

⁷⁹⁴ Canadian International Development Agency, "CIDA at the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok" 26 July, 2004. www.acdicida.gc.ca/cida_ind.nsf/AllDocIds/943EC01ED77861DB85256ECA-004A43DB?OpenDocument

⁷⁹⁵ "Global HIV/AIDS Vaccine Initiative : Scientific Strategic Plan," People's Library of Science: Medicine (San Francisco) 18 January 2005. Date of Access: 18 January 2005 [www.plosmedicine.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.pmed.0020025].

Assessment

Score	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada	-1	0	+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan	-1		
Russia	-1		
United Kingdom		0	
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Overall: 0.22			

Individual Country Compliance Breakdown

1. Canada: -1

Canada has registered minimal compliance with its Sea Island commitment regarding supporting the Global HIV Vaccine Initiative. Through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Canada has encouraged coordinated global HIV vaccine development and is the lead governmental donor to the International Aids Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)⁷⁹⁶ — a founding member of the Global HIV Vaccine Initiative.⁷⁹⁷ In June 2000, the government of Canada committed C\$50-million over three years to the IAVI,⁷⁹⁸ as well as C\$5-million to the Africa AIDS Vaccine Program. Nevertheless, these commitments were made in the period long before the Sea Island Summit and thus, cannot be considered evidence of compliance.⁷⁹⁹ At the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok held in July 2004, Canada continued to consult with other IAVI partners in both the public and private sectors over possible vaccine proposals.⁸⁰⁰

It should be noted that while Canada is one of the leading countries in the international community on the issue of HIV/AIDS, vaccine development is not its area of specialty. In the time since the G8 Summit in July Canada has chaired the governing body of UNAIDS from

⁷⁹⁶ Portail du Gouvernement, Premier Ministre, “Le Premier ministre reçoit les principaux acteurs de la lutte contre le SIDA”, 25 November 2004. www.premier-ministre.gouv.fr/acteurs/communiqués_4/premier_ministre_recoit_les_51674.html

⁷⁹⁷ “IAVI Applauds G8 Support for AIDS Vaccine,” International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (New York) 9 June 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.iavi.org/viewfile.cfm?fid=67].

⁷⁹⁸ *Canada’s Report on HIV/AIDS 2004: 2: About the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS*, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) 1 December 2004. Date of Access: 1 February 2004 [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/aids-sida/hiv_aids/report04/2_e.html]

⁷⁹⁹ “Canada Fund for Africa: AIDS Vaccine Research and Development,” Canadian International Development Agency (Ottawa) 2 March 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cida_ind.nsf/AllDocIds/59FC080D75941C5985256D180044B0AA?OpenDocument — 1].

⁸⁰⁰ Portail du Gouvernement, Premier Ministre, “Le ministre des Solidarités, de la Santé et de la Famille a présenté une communication relative à la lutte contre le sida”, 1 December 2004. [www.premier-ministre.gouv.fr/acteurs/gouvernement/conseils_ministres_35/conseil_ministres_1er_decembre_427/lutte_sida_51700.html]

2004-2005, has assumed a seat on the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, and has agreed to host the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto in 2006. In addition, Canada is a leading country in the developed world in the provision of generic retroviral HIV/AIDS drugs for the developing world.⁸⁰¹

2. France : +1

France has fully complied with the HIV/AIDS commitment. On November 25, 2004, French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin held a meeting bringing together important actors in the fight against AIDS. During this meeting he proclaimed that AIDS would be the “Grande Cause Nationale” for the year 2005.⁸⁰² Secondly, during a speech in New York, on September 20 2004 alongside President of Brazil, French President Jacques Chirac put forth a proposal for a new form of financial aid for developing countries generated from an international tax. He noted that a similar regime for the funding of vaccine initiatives and research is also envisaged.⁸⁰³

On October 19, 2004, French Minister of Health, Philippe Douste-Blazy held a meeting in Paris reuniting the health ministers of the seven European nations currently engaged in AIDS vaccine research. During this meeting the ministers made a joint declaration in which they emphasized the importance of heightened coordination and financing of AIDS Vaccine research, they also accepted to adopt the French initiative to create one scientific agenda for Europe in respect to vaccine research.⁸⁰⁴ Furthermore, on World AIDS Day (December 1) 2004, Philippe Douste-Blazy, declared his active support for innovative research initiatives such as the programs developed by the ‘Agence Nationale de Recherche’. At this time the Minister also stated that the government planned to accelerate the implementation of two particular components of its strategy to fight AIDS: the first being to increase global access to medication and the second to create a European strategy to coordinate research for an HIV/AIDS vaccine.⁸⁰⁵

3. Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with this commitment, and acting in cooperation with the Health Ministers of France, Italy, and the United Kingdom, it has adopted the French proposal for a joint European vaccine research agenda.⁸⁰⁶ The agenda calls for the coordination, financing, and

⁸⁰¹ “World AIDS Day 2004,” Foreign Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 1 December 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.fac-aec.gc.ca/departement/world-aids-day-2004-en.asp].

⁸⁰² Communiqué, “Réunion extraordinaire des Ministres Européens de la Santé. Accord de sept pays européens pour accélérer la recherche d’un vaccin contre le VIH/SIDA”, 19 October 2004, www.sante.gouv.fr/htm/actu/31_041019b.htm

⁸⁰³ Portail du Gouvernement, Premier Ministre, “Le ministre des Solidarités, de la Santé et de la Famille a présenté une communication relative à la lutte contre le sida”, 1 December 2004. www.premier-ministre.gouv.fr/acteurs/gouvernement/conseils_ministres_35/conseil_ministres_1er_decembre_427/lutte_sida_51700.html

⁸⁰⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁰⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁰⁶ The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, “Complete Pledges Spreadsheet” www.theglobalfund.org/en/files/pledges&contributions.xls

acceleration of AIDS vaccine research, and serves as a building block for a European vaccine development center.⁸⁰⁷

Germany also continues to contribute to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, having pledged 111,261,872 Euros for 2004 — 2005.⁸⁰⁸ Similarly, Germany began running its own clinical trials of an AIDS vaccine at the University of Bonn in February of 2004.⁸⁰⁹

4. Italy: +1

Italy registered full compliance with its commitments concerning the development of AIDS vaccines through increased alliances with international AIDS organizations, its participation in new initiatives, and significant state funding of AIDS trials. In September of 2004, Italy hosted the 1 Annual European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership in Rome.⁸¹⁰ Seven countries including Italy issued a joint call for better laboratory coordination for an AIDS vaccine, however demands for increased funding were sidestepped.⁸¹¹ The declaration made by the health ministers present described vaccine as, “an absolute necessity...” and called for a, “strengthening in efforts developed by research capacity” to, “pool results,” in order to maximize progress.⁸¹²

Along with France, Germany, the UK and others, Italy attended the 19 October 2004 meeting in Paris hosted by French Health Ministers Philippe Douste-Blazy at which all states endorsed a French plan concerning the HIV vaccine. Ministers made a joint declaration in which they emphasized the importance of heightened coordination and financing of AIDS Vaccine research, and agreed create one scientific agenda for Europe in respect to vaccine research.⁸¹³

In 2004 — 2005 the Italian government pledged 200 million USD in to the Global Fund, whose directive is the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS along with the promotion and funding for

⁸⁰⁷ Medical News Service, “Germany Begins its First AIDS Vaccine Trial, Partnering with IAVI” 18 February 2004. www.medicalnewsservice.com/fullstory.cfm?storyID=2122&fbac=yes

⁸⁰⁷ European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership, “News” www.edctp.org/5_news.htm

⁸⁰⁷ European AIDS Treatment Group, “Seven European Countries Demand for Push on AIDS Vaccine,” 21 October 2004.

www.eatg.org/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=379&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0

⁸⁰⁸ European AIDS Treatment Group, “Seven European Countries Demand for Push on AIDS Vaccine,” 21 October 2004.

www.eatg.org/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=379&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0

⁸⁰⁹ The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, “Complete Pledges Spreadsheet”

www.theglobalfund.org/en/files/pledges&contributions.xls

⁸¹⁰ “Statement of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Italian Directorate for Development Cooperation.”

www.esteri.it/doc/4_28_66_79_82.pdf

⁸¹¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan, “The Second Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting on HIV/AIDS and The XV International AIDS Conference”, July 2004. www.mofa.go.jp/policy/pop_aids/conf0407/index.html

⁸¹¹ The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, “Daily HIV/AIDS Report”, 12 July 2004.

www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?hint=1&DR_ID=24674

⁸¹² The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, “Complete Pledges Spreadsheet”

www.theglobalfund.org/en/files/pledges&contributions.xls

⁸¹³ Ibid.

research and development of potential AIDS vaccines.⁸¹⁴ On June 28, 2004 the Italian Directorate for Development Cooperation signed a statement of cooperation between Italy and UNAIDS, an organization whose mandate includes the funding for research and development of an AIDS vaccine.⁸¹⁵

5. Japan: –1

Japan has partially complied with this commitment. On July 11, 2004, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Ichiro Fujisaki attended the second Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting on HIV/AIDS, entitled “Access for All: Political Accountability.” The meeting was organized by Japan and held in Bangkok, Thailand. The same delegation headed by Ichiro Fujisaki participated in the XV International AIDS Conference also held in Bangkok from the 11th to the 16th of July 2004.⁸¹⁶ Although, the ministers at the XV International AIDS Conference reiterated the importance of a strategic plan to developing a vaccine⁸¹⁷, there is little evidence that Japan has taken any steps to implement the benchmarks highlighted during the Sea Island summit.

6. Russia: –1

Russia has exhibited partial compliance with this commitment. On several occasions, the Russian Federation has reaffirmed its commitment and continues to provide financial assistance to various international organizations.⁸¹⁸ However, there is no substantial evidence to indicate the Russian Federation has explicitly supported or directed funds into establishing a strategic plan for coordinating efforts in research and development, developing vaccine research centers, and the other stipulations necessary to the development of a Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise.

At the APEC Forum in Santiago Chile, Russia confirmed the need to work collaboratively with the appropriate international organizations such as UNAIDS, WHO, and the Global Fund to increase cooperation in preventing HIV/AIDS and promoting “access to safe and affordable medicines and treatment for people living with AIDS” and other infectious diseases.⁸¹⁹ Even

⁸¹⁴ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation — Information and Press Department. “Sixteenth APEC Ministerial Meeting, Joint Statement (Santiago),” 17–18 November 2004.

www.in.mid.ru/Ns-dipecon.nsf/arh/903877A7631CA94FC3256F6D004024D7?OpenDocument

⁸¹⁴ Communiqué of the Meeting of the Seven European Health Ministers, Paris. 19 October 2004.

www.sante.gouv.fr/hm/actu/31_041019b.htm

⁸¹⁵ Ibid.

⁸¹⁶ NIAID, “Budget Comparison: FY 2004 Appropriation to FY 2005 Amended President’s Budget,” 4 October, 2004. www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/budget/budgdata.htm

⁸¹⁷ NAID, “The Role of US Government Agencies in Vaccine Research & Development,”

www.niaid.nih.gov/director/nature/1998/nature98d.htm.

⁸¹⁷ IAVI, “About IAVI.” www.iavi.org/viewpage.cfm?aid=24

⁸¹⁷ Ibid.

⁸¹⁸ EUROPA, The European Commission, Press Room, Press Release # IP/04/1395 “The European Union is taking action to find satisfactory responses in the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.” 23 November 2004. europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1395&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

⁸¹⁹ EUROPA, The European Commission, Press Room, Press Release #IP/04/1111, “HIV/AIDS- The European Union and neighbouring countries pledge common action to counter resurgent.” 17 September 2004. [europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1111&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en].

though Russia has reiterated its commitment to the overall struggle with the AIDS endemic through international forums, no steps have been taken towards the establishment of a Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise.

7. United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has exhibited partial compliance with the commitment. At a meeting hosted by France on October 19, 2004, Gareth Thomas, Secretary of State for Development, acting on behalf of John Reid, Secretary of State for Health, was signatory to a declaration calling for increased coordination and financing of AIDS vaccine research.⁸²⁰ The declaration also called for a unified scientific agenda for Europe regarding AIDS vaccine research.⁸²¹ Similarly, the declaration also reinforced the need for collaborative efforts among researchers in order to accelerate vaccine research and clinical trials.

On a national policy level, HIV/AIDS has become a principal focus of the UK's foreign and development policies. A Department of International Development (DFID) report issued in 23 November 2004 states that "AIDS is a centrepiece of the UK's presidencies of the G8 and the EU in 2005. The UK will use these opportunities to build greater political commitment to tackle AIDS and secure agreement about what needs to be done internationally."⁸²² Nevertheless, despite this renewed focus, neither the development of an HIV vaccine or the Global HIV Vaccine Initiative appear to have gained any official recognition in, or incorporation into, the UK's HIV/AIDS policy. In July 2004, the United Kingdom released "Taking Action: The UK's Strategy for Tackling HIV and AIDS in the Developing World," a comprehensive policy review of the country's involvement in the global fight against HIV/AIDS. Despite its length of 81 pages, the report included only one paragraph on the development of HIV vaccine and committed the government only to "[c]ontinued support for AIDS vaccine development."⁸²³ Similarly, in another report released in September 2004 by DFID entitled "Working in Partnership with the Joint United Nations Programme for HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)" detailing the UK's relationship with the top multilateral body tackling the global pandemic, the word 'vaccine' is only used once in a reference to a 2001 UN Security Council Resolution — hardly a sign of UK enthusiasm for the development of an HIV vaccine.⁸²⁴

⁸²⁰EUROPA, The European Commission, Press Room, Press Release #IP/04/1395, "The European Union is taking action to find satisfactory responses in the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis." 23 November 2004. [europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1395&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en].

⁸²¹ EUROPA, European Commission, Research, FP6. "The European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership" [europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/edctp/index_en.html].

⁸²² "Factsheet: HIV & AIDS: Taking Action for Women," Department of International Development (London) 23 November 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/hivaids-factsheet23nov04.pdf].

⁸²³ "Taking Action: The UK's Strategy for Tackling HIV and AIDS in the Developing World," Department of International Development (London) 20 July 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/hivaidstakingaction.pdf], 61-62.

⁸²⁴ "Working in Partnership with the Joint United Nations Programme for HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)" Department of International Development (London) September 2004. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/ispunaid.pdf], 8.

8. United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with this commitment and has taken concrete steps towards the establishment of a Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise. The government continues to support the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which received 4.154 billion USD this year from the United States Congress, of which 1.397 billion was used for AIDS research.⁸²⁵ In the development of the HIV vaccine, the government works collaboratively with other federal agencies, state governments, companies, academic institutions and NGOs.⁸²⁶ The United States government has continued to be a large financial contributor to the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, which is engaged in a variety of partnerships in its AIDS vaccine research and development program. Furthermore, in November, 2004, President George W. Bush announced the establishment of a new U.S. Vaccine Research & Development Center in addition to the one housed in the US National Institutes of Health. Bush pledged \$488 million in FY2004 for the Center, which will become a key component of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, as well as for vaccine research itself. The White House has already requested \$533 million in FY2005 fiscal year in further funding for HIV vaccine research.

9. European Union: +1

The European Union has registered full compliance with its commitments made at the G8 summit in Savannah Georgia by not only participating in initiatives to advance the success of an AIDS vaccine, but by also funding and contributing to groups whose impetus' include their development and distribution. The European Commission adopted a new strategy to fight Tuberculosis, Malaria and HIV/AIDS, whose initiatives included, promotion of the creation of new vaccines and the ability of their local pharmaceutical production. The Commission co-hosted the 2nd Annual Europe AIDS Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, in September at which members of the research and medical community pooled resources and the aforementioned Strategy was debated. In November the European Council adopted the conclusions of the debate by the Commission on the new Strategic Framework. The European Union participated in the 1 Annual European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership. The European Union is the most significant contributor to the which allows increased cohesion and collaboration in AIDS vaccine development and trials. The European Union is the second largest contributor to the Global Fund, whose mandate includes the research and development of new AIDS vaccines, in 2004-2005 total contributions by the Commission to the Fund will total 321,442,528 USD. The European Commission participated in and partially subsidized the EuroVacc's AIDS Vaccine 04 Conference held in Lausanne, Switzerland, which provided a further forum for the stimulation of information exchange among international members of the medical and research community concerned with the development of an AIDS vaccine.

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⁸²⁵ The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, "Complete Pledges Spreadsheet"
www.theglobalfund.org/en/files/pledges&contributions.xls

⁸²⁶ AIDS Vaccine 04 "Sponsors" www.aidsvaccine04.org/Organisation_sponsors.php

Infectious Diseases: Polio Initiative

Commitment

“We are pleased that the financing gap for 2004 has now been closed through our efforts and those of others. We are determined to close the 2005 financing gap by the 2005 G8 Summit through the contributions of the G8 and other public and private donors.”

G8 Commitment to Help Stop Polio Forever

Background

Since its establishment in 1988, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, spearheaded by the World Health Organization, Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has received more than US\$3-billion in funding.⁸²⁷ The initiative’s efforts have helped polio disappear from multiple continents to the point where the disease today is endemic in only six countries: Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Niger, Afghanistan and Egypt. Immunization is the only effective method of eliminating polio as no cure exists for the disease.⁸²⁹ G8 member states and the European Commission are leading contributors towards the fund. At the Sea Island Summit, 2004, the G8 released the G8 Commitment to Help Stop Polio Forever by 2005 in which the committed to closing the 2004-2005 funding gap in the GPEI budget. The funding gap was estimated to be US\$200-million at the time of the Sea Island Summit, however, due to recent donations by the UK, Russia, Canada, Spain, Malaysia, Norway and a pending deal with the EU, the amount has been trimmed to US\$100-million for 2005. If the necessary funds are not provided to close the gap by mid-January 2005, the initiative will postpone immunization activities in the first quarter of 2005, significantly putting the goal of global eradication in jeopardy.⁸³⁰

⁸²⁷ “Who are the key donors of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative?” The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (Geneva) 2004. Date of Access: 27 December 2005 [www.polioeradication.org/poliodonors.asp].

⁸²⁸ “Who are the key donors of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative?” The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (Geneva) 2004. Date of Access: 27 December 2005 [www.polioeradication.org/poliodonors.asp].

⁸²⁹ “German Assistance for Polio Eradication,” Deutsche Botschaft (New Delhi) November 2004. Date of Access: 12 January 2005 [www.germanembassy-india.org/en/germannews04/nov/pg11.html].

⁸³⁰ “Additional funding requirements for polio immunization campaigns in polio endemic and high-risk African countries for 2005,” The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (Geneva) 22 January 2005. Date of Access: 23 January 2005 [www.polioeradication.org/fundingbackground.asp].

Assessment

Score	Lack of Compliance -1	Work in Progress 0	Full Compliance +1
Canada			+1
France	-1		
Germany	-1		
Italy	-1		
Japan		0	
Russia			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States	-1		
European Union		0	
Overall: -0.11			

1. Canada: +1

Canada has full compliance with its Sea Island commitment regarding closing the 2004-2005 funding gap for the GPEI. On 17 January 2005, Minister of Finance Ralph Goodale and Minister of International Cooperation Aileen Carroll announced C\$42 million to support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). The additional pledge was made in direct relation to the Sea Island commitment. Goodale stated that “Canada is stepping in to fund the immediate shortfall faced by the GPEI, providing \$42 million to help finally eradicate this crippling disease.” Since 1988 Canada has been among the top five donors to the GPEI, providing a total of C\$152 million.⁸³¹

2. France: -1

France has been listed as a core donor to the GPEI, along with 23 other government donors.⁸³² However, as of January 2005, France was not among the countries recognized as contributing additional funds to close the funding gap.⁸³³ Indeed, it has been one of the lowest core contributors to the GPEI since it was founded, ranked as a tier 5 donor (US\$5-49 million in donations since 1988) — the lowest G8 donor after Italy and Russia.⁸³⁴ French cooperation has tended to favour routine immunization projects and provide polio eradication funding only when the activities take place in countries where it has a strong presence. France receives a -1 due to a lack of commitment to the polio eradication initiative since the Sea Island Summit.

3. Germany: -1

Germany has registered an incomplete level of compliance with its 2004 Sea Island commitment regarding polio, failing to provide any direct additional funds to close the GPEI’s funding gap.

⁸³¹ “Government of Canada Announces Increased Funding to Support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative,” Ministry of Finance (Ottawa) 17 January 2005. Date of Access: 18 January 2005 [www.fin.gc.ca/news05/05-004e.html].

⁸³² Spearheading Partners, The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (Geneva) 2004. Date of Access: 7 January 2005 [www.polioeradication.org/partners.asp].

⁸³³ “African health leaders vow to meet polio eradication goal,” World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 January 2005. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2005/pr04/en/].

⁸³⁴ *Donors*, Global Polio Eradication Initiative (Geneva) 2005. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.polioeradication.org/poliodonors.asp].

Indeed, Germany is considered a tier-4 core donor by the GPEI (US\$50-99 million in donations since 1988) well below Japan (tier-2) and the US (tier-1) — ranking Berlin at a similar level of generosity as Canada whose economy is a fifth its size.⁸³⁵

4. Italy: –1

Italy was included in a long list of core donors that have contributed money to the annual budget of the Global Eradication Fund in 2004. The Italian donation of US\$15 million over three years in global funding⁸³⁶ was pledged after March 2004 although none of these funds have been made available and there is no indication they are forthcoming. Nevertheless, the Sea Island commitment is in parts and acknowledgement that core funding by G8 countries and others to the GPEI is not sufficient to meet the Initiative's needs and that additional pledges were required. To date there is no evidence that Italy has responded to this call for additional funding.

5. Japan: 0

Japan has demonstrated a moderate level of compliance since the 2004 Sea Island Summit. Through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan has contributed more than US\$110 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative since 1988 — ranking it as a tier 2 donor along with the UK and behind only the US in terms of generosity amongst G8 member states.⁸³⁷ Japan has placed a priority on eliminating polio from Asian countries, especially populous ones.⁸³⁸ In August 2004, Japan donated US\$3.7 million to The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support the campaign against polio in Egypt.⁸³⁹ While UNICEF and the GPEI are not synonymous, UNICEF is a principal sponsor of the GPEI and the Initiative does refer to UNICEF as being part of a global partnership to eliminate polio. Nevertheless, Japan has not contributed additional funds directly to the GPEI and thus, cannot be considered to have evidenced full compliance.

6. Russia: + 1

Russia has registered a high level of compliance with its Sea Island Summit commitments regarding polio. On July 13, 2004 the Russian Federation announced an additional pledge of US\$4 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to help it close its funding gap. The announcement came from M. Fradakov, the Chairman of the Russian Federation indicating the high degree of importance Russia attaches to the polio initiative. This pledge included an

⁸³⁵ *Donors*, Global Polio Eradication Initiative (Geneva) 2005. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.polioeradication.org/poliodonors.asp]

⁸³⁶ Recent Donations: Polio News Issue 22, The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (Geneva) 19 October 2004. Date of Access: December 29, 2005 [www.polioeradication.org/content/polionews/polionews22.pdf].

⁸³⁷ *Donors*, Global Polio Eradication Initiative (Geneva) 2005. Date of Access: 15 January 2005 [www.polioeradication.org/poliodonors.asp]

⁸³⁸ "Polio Mission Accomplished," Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 2004. Date of Access: 1 January 2005 [www.jica.go.jp/english/news/2001/01-03.html].

⁸³⁹ "Egypt: Signing Ceremony for Japanese Grant Aid for Polio to UNICEF," UNICEF (Cairo) 2 August 2004. Date of Access: 3 January 2005 [www.unicef.org/egypt/media_194.html].

additional US\$3 million for polio eradication in 2005.⁸⁴⁰ In the fight against polio, Russia's contribution stands now at US\$8 million for 2003-2005.⁸⁴¹ with the specified commitment.

7. United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom registered a very high level of compliance with its Sea Island commitment regarding polio. On June 22, 2004 the UK announced additional funding to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to close its 2004-2005 funding gap. The additional funds bring the UK's total contributions to £14 million (US\$25 million) to the GPEI for this year with London having pledged £225 million (US\$ 415 million) since 1988. MP Gareth Thomas stated that "G8 countries have promised to take all necessary steps to eradicate polio by 2005. Now is the time for action. I urge all donors to turn their pledges into cash and call on the international community to commit the political and financial resources necessary to eradicate polio once and for all."⁸⁴²

In addition the United Kingdom is amongst the group of individual governments involved as donors in the Polio Eradication Coalition and the plan of action against the disease that is to be carried out in 2004 through 2008.⁸⁴³ The UK government's Department for International Development has dedicated funds specifically for the communication component of the National Polio Eradication Campaign and will provide £2.2 million to implement the Communication Strategy of 2004/05 with UNICEF.⁸⁴⁴ The United Kingdom receives a score of +1 for demonstrating successful compliance since the 2004 Sea Island Summit.

8. United States: -1

Following the Sea Island Summit, there have been no major announcements of new funding by the US government towards the global polio eradication initiative. In Iraq reconstruction efforts, however, proactive steps have been taken to prevent polio cases in this region by assisting with the health care sector. This has included the immunization of 3.29 million children against polio in fall 2004, provision of vaccination supplies for polio and MMR (measles mumps rubella), establishment of National Immunization Days, and the equipping and furnishing of the National Polio Laboratory.⁸⁴⁵ Following the end of the vaccine boycott by Nigeria in October 2004, continued support for polio eradication resumed with the US Centre for Disease Control included

⁸⁴⁰ Government of Russian Federation (Moscow) 13 July 2004. Date of Access: 3 January 2005 [www.government.ru/data/news_text.html?he_id=103&news_id=14896].

⁸⁴¹ Polio News: Issue 22, Global Polio Eradication Initiative (Geneva) Autumn, 2004. Date of Access: January 2, 2005 [www.polioeradication.org/content/polionews/polionews22.pdf].

⁸⁴² "Polio Statement by Gareth Thomas MP," Department of International Development (London) 22 June 2004. Date of Access: 29 December 2004 [www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/pr-statementpolio22604.asp].

⁸⁴³ Spearheading Partners, Global Polio Eradication Initiative (Geneva) 2004. Date of Access: 7 January 2004 [www.polioeradication.org/partners.asp].

⁸⁴⁴ "DFID and UNICEF joins hands with Government of India for polio eradication in India," Department for International Development (Washington, D.C.) 2 July 2004. Date of Access: 29 December 2004 [www.dfidindia.org/news/news/2004/2004_07_02.htm].

⁸⁴⁵ Document on Iraqi health care sector assistance, USAID (Washington, D.C.) 3 Dec 2004. Date of Access: 4 January 2005 [www.usaid.gov/press/factsheets/2004/fs041203.html].

in the partnership with WHO, Rotary, UNICEF, and other African nations.⁸⁴⁶ Although the US has indicated interest towards polio eradication projects, it receives a score of –1 due to its lack of contribution towards closing the polio eradication fund’s budget deficit..

In addition, while it cannot be considered as evidence of compliance, it should be noted that the US is the leading G8 member state in the area of polio eradication. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was a spearheading partner of the Polio Eradication Initiative. In addition to significant financial support, CDC deploys its epidemiologists, public health experts and scientists to the World Health Organization, UNICEF and polio-affected countries and provides support to the 145 members of the global polio laboratory network. Annual funding for polio eradication is also received through USAID. To date the US ranks as the only state who is a tier 1 donor to the GPEI with total pledges since 1988 surpassing US\$500-million. Nevertheless, as stated before, this is core funding and not pledged in response to the G8’s call to close the 2005-2005 funding gap in the GPEI budget.

9. European Union: +1

The European Union has demonstrated ample evidence of compliance with its Sea Island G8 commitment to close the funding gap in the GPEI budget. The EU had been a leader in the fight against polio in 2004 through a donation of €61.2 million⁸⁴⁷ just before the Sea Island Summit and is discussing providing similar funds for 2005. Most significantly, the European Commission (EC), in coordination with the African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) group of countries, in December 2005 signed an agreement to provide €55 million through WHO to fund 2005-2006 polio eradication activities in 14 ACP member countries in Africa.⁸⁴⁸ This donation is most significant since cases of polio has been confirmed in Nigeria, Niger and Egypt and there is fear of an outbreak in the Darfur region of Sudan and in pockets of West Africa.

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⁸⁴⁶ “Massive Public Health Initiative Fights Polio,” White House News & Policies (Washington, D.C.) 14 Oct 2004. Date of Access: 3 January 2005 [www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/10/20041014-6.html].

⁸⁴⁷ “European Commission Proposes EUR 61.2 Million To Eradicate Polio in Africa,” European Commission Delegation (Washington, DC) 4 June 2004. Date of Access: 3 January 2005 [www.eurunion.org/News/press/2004/20040094.htm].

⁸⁴⁸ *Funding Update*, Global Polio Eradication Initiative (Geneva) 22 February 2005. Date of Access: 23 February 2005 [www.polioeradication.org/fundingbackground.asp]

⁸⁴⁹ The Fourth High Level Meeting between the European Commission and the World Health Organization, European Commission, Health & Consumer Protection Directorate-General (Brussels) 2 July 2004. Date of Access: 29 December 2005 [europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_international/documents/minutes_4ththighlevel_EC-WHO.pdf].