Governments and private donors pledge US$812 million around five-day summit in Geneva; Wo

GENEVA, Switzerland, April 19, 2017/ -- This week, leaders from governments, pharmaceutical compa

The meeting comes five years after the launch of the Leaders Declaration on NTDs (http://APO.af/5jKHBH), a commitment b

NTDs are some of the oldest and most painful diseases, afflicting the world's poorest communities. One

New Report Shows Dramatic Progress

A new report titled Integrating Neglected Tropical Diseases in Global Health and Development (http://APO.af/GaR2bN) by the WHO rev

"WHO has observed record-breaking progress towards bringing ancient scourges like sleeping sicknes

The report detailed progress against each disease, citing countries and regions that are reaching contr

- **Lymphatic filariasis (LF) rating toward finish line:** In the last year, eight countries (Cambodia, Cook Islands, Maldives, Mars
- **Fewest-ever cases of human African trypanosomiasis (HAT) or sleeping sickness:** In 2015, three-year-old reports of sleeping sickness in an ol
- **Eighty-two percent decrease in visceral leishmaniasis (VL) cases in India, Nepal and Bangla** Since 2005, cases of Vl, Nepal and India, Nepal and Bangla
- **Guinea worm disease nearing eradication:** Cases of Guinea worm disease have reduced from an estimated 3.5 millio

Global Donors Pledge Additional Support

Governments and other donors announced new commitments at the summit to expand the reach and The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation committed $335 million in grants over the

"NTDs are some of the most painful, debilitating and stigmatizing diseases that affect the world's poore

"Thanks to this partnership, these neglected diseases are now getting the attention they deserve so few

The Belgian government also pledged an additional $27 million, spread equally over the next nine year

As part of its commitment to eliminating HAT, Vestergaard pledged to donate 20 percent of its insectici

These commitments build on the UK Government's announcement earlier this week, in which it pledged

Industry Contributions Expand Scale and Reach of NTD Program

Progress against NTDs has been enabled by the large-scale donation of medicines by 10 pharmaceuti

In a statement (http://APO.af/55buit) released today, indust

"The London Declaration is a powerful example of the impact of successful partnerships," said Hardy M

In addition to donations, pharmaceutical companies are working together and with research institutes

- Sanofi and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DND *i*)
- Several companies are *i* working to develop pediatric formulations of existing NTD medicines, inclu
- AbbVie, Bayer, Eisai, Johnson & Johnson and Merck KGaA are part of the Macrofilaricide Drug A
- Bayer is working with DND *i* to develop emodepside, an oral treatment for lym
- Eisai is working with DND *i* to develop ravuconazole, a new oral drug current
- GlaxoSmithKline and DND *i* have agreed to jointly pursue the pre-clinical deve
- In 2015, Eisai, Shionogi, Takeda, AstraZeneca and DND *i* launched the NTD Drug Discovery Booster (http://APO.af/bbHZQG

- Many companies – including AbbVie, AstraZeneca, Bayer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene, Cheni
- Gilead is collaborating with the US Department of Defense, Centers for Disease Control and Prev

Companies are also working with partners to solve supply chain problems, develop program strategies

Addressing the Challenges Ahead

Though tremendous progress has been made in reducing the burden of NTDs, global control and elimi

Financial Resources

Although nearly a billion people received NTD treatments in 2015, more funding is needed to ensure th

In addition to government commitments, private philanthropy is helping to address these gaps by supp

Political Commitment

Strong leadership from affected countries is vital to sustaining progress against NTDs, particularly in th

"Ethiopia is fully committed to realizing ambitious, yet achievable, elimination targets for trachoma and

New Tools and Innovations

To meet control and elimination targets, more research and development is needed to provide NTD pro

R&D organizations such as PATH and partnerships like DNDi, the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund and

The Global Partners Meeting on Neglected Tropical Diseases (http://APO.af/oloCnt) NTD Summit http://APO.af/mEY60y

About Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases:

Established in 2012, Uniting to Combat NTDs (http://UnitingToCombatNTDs.org) is a group of or

The 10 diseases covered by the London Declaration include Buruli ulcer disease, Guinea w

About the London Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases:

The London Declaration on NTDs (http://APO.af/OW0kNB)