

IAVI Calls for Continued G8 Leadership to Accelerate Development of and Global Access to AIDS Vaccines

At their Summits over the last several years, G8 leaders have recognized AIDS vaccines as a global priority. At last year's Summit, G8 leaders affirmed the need for accelerated and more collaborative research efforts, consistent with the principles of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise. The G8 leadership should continue to champion new technologies for the fight against AIDS as a critical component of the broader development agenda.

The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), as a founding member of the Enterprise, is working with government, NGO and other partners to ensure that AIDS vaccines and other new preventive technologies remain a global priority for the upcoming G8 Summit in Scotland in July 2005. IAVI is committed to promoting balanced incentives for AIDS vaccine R&D that include both "push" mechanisms to fund research and "pull" interventions that make investments in vaccines more attractive and speed global delivery of a vaccine when one is available. The following are the top priorities for action by G8 governments:

- **G8 countries should increase and encourage better targeting of investment in AIDS vaccine research and product development (R&D).** IAVI's analysis suggests that an additional US \$400-500 million per year is needed to boost AIDS vaccine R&D spending to approximately \$1.1 billion. The bulk of the increased funding should be directed to the key applied research challenges and product development and to building more capacity in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Although new, important funding pledges have been made (including announcements by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the US National Institutes of Health), the funding gap remains wide and must urgently be bridged.
- **G8 countries should create a multi-billion dollar advance purchase commitment (APC) for AIDS vaccines.** An APC would not take current funds away from current AIDS treatment or prevention programs, but instead would create legally binding contracts to guarantee adequate resources in the future for the purchase and delivery of AIDS vaccines for developing countries. By assuring future markets for a vaccine, an APC reduces the very large financial risks that companies face and encourages greater private investment in AIDS vaccine R&D.
- **G8 countries should strengthen their political leadership and provide expanded assistance to developing nations for AIDS vaccine R&D.** Technical assistance to the developing world should target the strengthening of regulatory systems and research infrastructure in developing countries. The G8 should also establish partnerships with countries that have emerging global science and technology capacity, encouraging its application for AIDS vaccine R&D.

The G8 nations should have an opportunity to lead a sustained, comprehensive response to AIDS, building on their historical leadership for AIDS vaccines. In Gleneagles, G8 leaders should commit to a new agenda of concrete actions towards the successful development and global delivery of an AIDS vaccine in partnership with the developing world. To achieve long term development goals, it is essential that the G8 champions AIDS vaccines and other new preventive technologies. Their vision can save millions of lives and billions of dollars by ending the most devastating epidemic of our time.