



Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, MdB
Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche
Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)
Stresemannstr. 94
10963 Berlin

25 November 2008

Dear Mrs. Wieczorek-Zeul,

Malaria kills approximately one million people each year and annually causes 250 million new infections. Almost all those who suffer from malaria live in developing countries where the disease poses a major obstacle for public health and development. It is critically important that malaria and other poverty-related diseases get the attention they need.

Today, with the world in the midst of financial turbulence, the possibility of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the health-related MDGs in particular, is receding fast. Especially, as EU data revealed that the euro zone economy shrank by 0.2 per cent in the second and third quarters. Against the background of the current global financial crisis, we, the members of STOP MALARIA NOW!, are deeply concerned that the credit crunch is going to lead to a radical reduction of development aid which would make the poor poorer and hinder access to effective healthcare in developing countries. The inability of the donor countries to implement their commitments to increase ODA is one of the main reasons that international development goals no longer seem likely to be met. The failure to provide money should not disenfranchise a large majority of the world's population from health and development.

STOP MALARIA NOW! applauds:

- Germany's increased contribution to the Global Fund that has just recently set up the Affordable Medicines Facility for Malaria (AMFm) – critical if we are to make effective ACTs available to the poor and vulnerable.
- Reiteration by donor countries of the target of 0.7 percent of their gross national income for Official Development Assistance (ODA) within the Monterrey Consensus once again.
- The progress that has been made through a quantitative and qualitative increase of ODA following Monterrey.
- The adoption of a multi-stage plan by the EU to achieve the 0.7-percent goal by 2015.

However, these promises need to be put into action. According to the OECD, by 2007 just five of the 22 donor countries organised in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) had reached the 0.7% target. Whereas Germany, Europe's largest economy had provided only 0.37% of its GNI for ODA.

Since 2007, contributions to ODA have been on the decline again, especially as larger debt cancellations are being included in the total. As sensible as debt cancellation measures may be for highly indebted developing countries, fresh money is also needed for poverty eradication and other development measures.

Innovative financing mechanisms are an important means of mobilising additional funds. The Monterrey Consensus has not considered new financing instruments for international development.

From 29th November till 2nd December world leaders meet in Doha for the 2nd International Conference on Financing for Development and have the chance once again to make history by setting and meeting obligatory milestones for financing international development.

We call urgently on the German Government to use the historic momentum of the Doha Conference to:



- Increase the quantity of fresh funds for development and fulfil the commitment to raise ODA to 0.7 percent of the GNI
- Adopt a national multi-stage plan with annual growth steps with particular regard to fighting poverty-related diseases such as malaria and adjust the budgetary planning for the coming years accordingly in order to attain that goal until the end of 2009
- Implement new financing instruments such as air ticket levies as an additional source of funding for international development by using existing institutions, so as to avoid duplicating structures and to facilitate coordination
- Commit to a long-term pledge to the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and therefore support the newly established AMFm by assuring access to effective antimalarials for the poor and vulnerable
- Increase bilateral support for raising awareness for malaria as one of the deadliest poverty-related diseases worldwide
- Significantly scale up funding for research and development of new drugs, diagnostics and vaccines for malaria and other poverty-related diseases from ~ \$20 million spent in 2007, a mere 0.12% of its overall research budget, to at least \$500 million per year
- Support the establishment of a “Global Fund for Research and Development” as recently advocated by Oxfam
- Support facilitation of delivery of health tools such as bed nets and effective antimalarials to the poor and vulnerable

STOP MALARIA NOW! sincerely hopes that the German Government will show leadership in this area and stop the disease-endemic countries from spiralling deeper into poverty and ill-health.

Yours sincerely,

Antje Mangelsdorf

Coordinator of the STOP MALARIA NOW! campaign

STOP MALARIA NOW! is a consortium of nine health and development NGOs¹ from Europe and Africa. Our aim is to raise public awareness of malaria and mobilize respective support for stronger political, financial and strategic commitments of European governments in order to achieve the malaria related targets. STOP MALARIA NOW! represents our contribution to global civil society efforts to reduce poverty in line with the MDGs.



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¹ Deutsches Medikamentenhilfswerk action medeor e.V., Federación de Asociaciones Medicus Mundi España, Fundacja Pomocy Humanitarnej „Redemptoris Missio- Medicus Mundi Poland, Eine Welt Netz NRW e.V., Stowarzyszenie Polska Misja Medyczna, Medici con l’Africa Cuamm, Medicus Mundi Italia, Medicines for Malaria Venture, Kenya NGOs Alliance Against Malaria