

GSK Public policy positions

The Post-2015 Development Agenda

The Issue

As we approach the expiration of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)¹ in 2015, it is evident that the setting of clear goals has been key to starting to tackle poverty reduction and to supporting human development.

However, although countries have made significant progress in strengthening many aspects of their health systems, there remain substantial inequalities in access to healthcare; 1 billion people still lack access to basic healthcare and more than 2 billion people do not have regular access to essential medicines. The MDGs also fell short by not integrating the economic, social, and environmental aspects of sustainable development as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration², and by not addressing the need to promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production. It is critical that we do not lose sight of completing the MDGs between now and 2015; however, it is also essential that we focus on the next generation of the development framework.

As a science and values led healthcare company, GSK has an important role to play in improving the health, well-being and access to medicines of millions of people around the world. We want to help people to do more, feel better and live long healthy lives regardless of where they live or their ability to pay. To this end, GSK is pursuing flexible business models to try and ensure both innovation and access, including open innovation approaches, tiered pricing, voluntary licensing, technology transfer and working in public private partnerships.

As a global company, we are also committed to managing and reducing the environmental impacts of our operations and our products across their life-cycle. To ensure we can continue to deliver high quality products to patients and consumers in the future, we must protect the natural resources we need to make them today. We are, therefore, working hard to reduce our environmental footprint, even as we grow our business, to extend the benefits of GSK products to more patients and customers around the world.

Against this backdrop, we feel we have an important voice in the creation of the new development framework. This paper sets out GSK's recommendations on the development and implementation of the post 2015 development agenda, with a particular focus on health and environmental elements.

GSK's Position

- **Universal Health Coverage (UHC), as a central tenet of the development framework, should be clearly defined and part of an integrated health goal.** GSK supports the current proposal included in both *The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*³ and in the UN Secretary General's (UNSG) Report – *A Life of Dignity for All*⁴, for the inclusion of UHC. We recommend that the post 2015 framework include a well-defined integrated health goal that incorporates UHC and builds on and continues the progress made by MDGs 4, 5 and 6; these goals have been helpful in focusing the minds of government, the private sector and civil society on improving the health and well-being of poor people. A continued integrated health goal should also reflect the growing burden from non-communicable diseases and address the reality that without nutrition, food security and stable environments, good health is elusive. GSK is fully committed to realising the UHC goal via a thoughtful transition that meets the shared goals of industry, governments and others to expand patient access to medicines and services while preserving incentives for future innovation and sustainability. Our public policy position on UHC outlines what we see as the 8 core principles that governments may consider when determining their own approaches to UHC.
- **Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) should be explicitly mentioned as part of any health related goal.** NTDs are amongst some of the most disabling diseases that affect the poorest people in the world, keeping them trapped in poverty. GSK therefore welcomed the specific mention of NTDs as part of the illustrative

¹ <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

² <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

³ <http://www.post2015hlp.org/the-report/>

⁴ <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/A%20Life%20of%20Dignity%20for%20All.pdf>

universal health goal 4 to 'Ensure Healthy Lives' in *The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*; "Reduce the burden of disease from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases and priority non-communicable diseases". However, the mention of NTDs was notably absent from the UNSG Report – *A Life of Dignity for All*. GSK recommends that NTDs are explicitly included in any health related goal of the new sustainable development agenda, given that the key premise of the agenda is to eradicate poverty.

- **Equity should be the underpinning principle of UHC.** As emphasised in *The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda* and the UNSG's Report on *A Life of Dignity for All*, no-one should remain untreated or be discriminated against, for reason of gender, age, race, geographical location, economical or social status. GSK specifically recommends that:
 - A focus on the patient should be central to the thinking and actions of all stakeholders.
 - All people should have fair access to a basic and appropriate package of essential health care services without suffering financial hardship.
 - Governments should provide a public safety net for the most vulnerable populations and individuals, which, where possible, avoid out-of-pocket payments through risk-pooling mechanisms.
 - Where appropriate, private health insurance as well as hybrid solutions should also be employed, particularly for growing middle- and upper-income populations to release public funding for more vulnerable groups and raise the overall level of health provision.
 - Whilst equity must be strived for, lowest common denominator approaches should be avoided. Where feasible, options for patient choice in healthcare service delivery should be encouraged to ensure that there is an in-built pressure to continuously improve standards of care.
- **The "essential use" exemption for chlorofluorocarbon use in Metered Dose Inhalers should be ended.** The combined impact of countries' development on the environment may reach or exceed critical global thresholds beyond which environmental systems may undergo major changes. Such changes can undermine the basis for human wellbeing and survival in many parts of the world. By ending the "essential use" exemption for chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) use in Metered Dose Inhalers (MDIs), the final phase-out of CFCs would be expedited and protection of the earth's ozone layer and the health of citizens would be enhanced, as alternatives to using CFCs in inhalers are widely available. All GSK MDIs have now been reformulated to use a non-ozone-depleting delivery system using hydrofluoroalkanes (HFA) propellants and manufacture of the last GSK MDI product using CFC ceased in 2009.
- **Addressing the issue of pharmaceuticals in the environment should be based on robust scientific assessment.** There is currently limited and non-conclusive evidence of human or environmental harm associated with pharmaceuticals in the environment (PIE). However, GSK acknowledges and supports greater efforts in understanding the long term environmental impact of man-made substances, including medicines, and in minimising their release into the environment. Any measures introduced to address the issue of pharmaceuticals in the environment should be based on a robust scientific assessment of the potential threat posed by PIE and clearly differentiate between the potential impact on health from PIE and the potential impact on the environment.
- **The carbon footprint strategy should focus on the entire value chain.** GSK is supportive of the emphasis in the post 2015 agenda on curbing human induced climate change. The traditional view of a manufacturer's carbon footprint has tended to focus on its operations and distribution network. And it is here that incentives – primarily around supporting greater energy efficiency – have also tended to focus. However, this approach does not capture the carbon footprint of the materials needed to make products. Nor does it capture the energy used by consumers when they use manufactured products. A broader assessment of the carbon footprint suggests that the most effective and successful strategy should focus on the entire value chain from suppliers to end users, not just a manufacturer's own operations. It also needs to address the siloed approach to carbon accounting which fails to discourage imports from carbon-intensive countries (as their carbon footprint will be accounted for in the exporting country) and fails to incentivise suppliers to reduce carbon emissions. GSK's long-term goal is for our value chain to be carbon neutral by 2050. This means we need to look at every aspect of our products – from sourcing raw materials to manufacturing and product use and disposal. Our 2020 goal is to reduce our carbon footprint by 25% across the business.

- **The new goals must have clear, measurable, evidence-based targets that are supported by electronic data platforms.** Reporting on the current MDGs is varied, which makes any kind of meaningful comparisons, even within the same industry, very difficult.
 - GSK therefore supports long-term goals for the post-2015 programme (e.g. 15 years as per current MDGs) but with milestone targets and regular reports every one or two years within a ‘Global Sustainable Development Outlook’, as set out in *The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*.
 - GSK agrees this should be overseen by a global forum supported by an independent multi-stakeholder panel which would include ‘business, civil society and other voices’.
 - It will be important that the subsequent targets and indicators under the headline goals are specific, so that companies can more easily identify opportunities to contribute.
 - All the targets need to be measured and evidence based. Key measures could include the 4S's: Saving Lives (e.g. DALYs), Sustainability, Scalability and Shared value (financial value throughout the network of participants).
 - GSK notes the vision in *The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda* of a ‘data revolution’ to take advantage of new technology and improved connectivity. This fits well with GSK’s proposal for the development of an open-source health delivery database to contribute to better outcomes and transparency in this area.
 - GSK recommends that all new programmes should be put on electronic data platforms as this will lead to better data analysis, better patient coverage and improved integration between programmes.
 - GSK is keen to support efforts in this area and we would readily commit to setting up a multi-disciplinary private sector network to support improved outcomes.
- **Working together in partnership is essential if the post 2015 agenda is to be successfully realised.** GSK believes that the private sector should be involved as an equal stakeholder in a truly collaborative process to ensure both their buy-in to the process to finalise the goals and their involvement in their implementation. Policies should be pursued to ensure an operating environment which optimises the contribution from all stakeholders including the private sector. Some of the key issues where the private sector can usefully contribute to the discussion, include regulatory harmonisation, international reference pricing, anti-diversion, environmental sustainability, robust IP, accelerating uptake of new products and increasing vaccine coverage. On the health aspect, some solutions could include easing commercial entry barriers, measuring and addressing the impact of taxes and duties still imposed on medicines and encouraging access to quality-assured medicines through private market support and advocacy in the developing world. From an environmental perspective, solutions could include engaging local communities, regulatory authorities and other commercial organisations to develop long term and sustainable access to safe and clean supplies of water and sanitation.

Background

The Post-2015 Agenda

In July 2012, a high-level panel was convened at the request of the Secretary-General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon, to make recommendations on the development agenda beyond 2015. The Panel consulted extensively, in every region and across many sectors and produced *The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. The Report outlined five transformational shifts, applicable to both developed and developing countries alike: (i) Leave no one behind; (ii) Put sustainable development at the core; (iii) Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth; (iv) Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all; (v) Forge a new global partnership.



Both this report and the UN Secretary General's (UNSG) Report – *A Life of Dignity for All*, place healthcare as a central tenet of basic human rights. In *The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, one of the 12 Universal Goals aims to 'Ensure Healthy Lives'; this focuses on ensuring universal access to basic healthcare in order to achieve the outcomes; these include addressing infant and maternal mortality rates. In the UNSG Report – *A Life of Dignity for All*, to 'Improve Health' is listed as a key transformative action; this also aims to address universal healthcare coverage, access and affordability; and end preventable maternal and child deaths.

Both reports also highlight the importance of integrating 3 key dimensions in creating a sustainable development agenda – social, economic and environmental. In *The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, one of the 12 Universal Goals aims to 'Secure Sustainable Energy' which focuses on one of the key environmental challenges of reducing the footprint of unsustainable production and consumption patterns to ensure a sustainable agenda, leading to eradicating poverty. This is emphasised in the UNSG Report – *A Life of Dignity for All*; to 'Address Climate Change' is included as a key transformative action focusing on helping developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change whilst supporting growth.

The Private Sector and the Post-2015 Agenda

The reality that the MDGs could only be achieved by governments, NGOs, the private sector and affected communities working together in partnership was not well recognised at the outset of their creation. The need for, and value of, this partnership approach is now recognised as key to delivering on the new development agenda. A Global Partnership as the basis for a single, universal post-2015 agenda that will deliver this vision for the sake of humanity is incorporated in *The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. For its part, the UNSG Report – *A Life of Dignity for All*, emphasises that those key stakeholders, including the private sector, must be seen as equal partners in the discussion of what issues will be prioritised; how they will be delivered and what will be measured.

Reflecting on these reports and wider inputs, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals is conducting a series of discussions aimed at formulating goals for sustainable development. The Working Group will report to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2014. Following the UNGA, a Heads of State and Government Summit will then be held later in 2014 to start a formal negotiation process which will conclude with approval of the finally agreed goals at the UNGA in September 2015.

GSK is fully committed to realising the post-2015 development agenda via a thoughtful transition that meets the shared goals of industry, governments and others to expand patient access to medicines and services while preserving incentives for future innovation and sustainability. To this end, we stand ready to work with all stakeholders to shape action and implementation towards achieving the sustainable development framework.

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