



Ministero degli Affari Esteri

la Viceministra On.le Patrizia Sentinelli

Dr Bernard Pecoul,

I would like to offer my warmest congratulations on the launch of the new ASAQ antimalarial combination. We appreciate in particular that the new drug is intended to meet the needs for malaria treatment in Africa and in less developed countries in general.

Italy welcomes this significant breakthrough, because it supports research, development and distribution of new safe and adapted drugs to fight poverty related diseases, and participates actively in a number of related initiatives in this field, including Advanced Market Commitments, International Finance Facility for Immunization and the Global Fund. These initiatives complement each other and provide by now a wide array of tools. As a consequence, we are today in a better position to react efficiently, quickly, incisively to face the tragic phenomena of pandemics and child deaths caused by “neglected diseases”.

The fundamental and strategic perspective is to increasingly combine innovation of drugs, diagnostics and vaccines with the largest possible access for populations. We do consider that a broad access and distribution of drugs for populations in need will in fact measure the effectiveness of international actions.

For this reason, we do welcome the global public good approach that has inspired the partnership between DNDi and Sanofi-Aventis. I would like to recall in particular that ASAQ has been brought about by a commendable partnership between civil society, public research institutes in developing countries and private enterprise, which has produced open and shared innovation.

This is the way to follow: co-operation among all actors involved, including governments, enterprises, academia, NGOs, the civil society at large aiming at the largest access of the results and deliverable fruits of innovation.

Italy is particularly interested in the follow-up of this innovative partnership and will continue its action in the specific field of drug research and distribution.

Honourable Patrizia Sentinelli

Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, delegated for International Development Cooperation and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Rome, 28th February 2007