

**Vienna Senior Officials Meeting on Avian and Pandemic Influenza  
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**Session 1.3: STATUS OF DELIVERING ON PLEDGES**

*Status of UN co-ordination scheme and actions*

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- I. International meetings between 2005 and 2006 have led to a shared Avian and Human Influenza strategy and coordinated response: this has been backed up with strong commitments from the international community to support the implementation of required actions at country level. Vital regional and global functions have also been identified – these include tracking the global dimensions of AHI, assessing progress with responses to AHI threats, and encouraging regional exchanges of best practice.
- II. Countries have prepared integrated plans for controlling avian influenza and preparing for a pandemic. The focus is on six distinct objectives:
  1. animal health surveillance, reporting and response, and bio-security;
  2. information dissemination and social mobilization to encourage healthy behaviour;
  3. incentive and compensation schemes for those who lose out as a result of control measures;
  4. human health surveillance, reporting and response together with early pandemic containment (including the management of treatment stockpiles);
  5. continuity of governance and services during the pandemic; and
  6. inter-ministerial coordination for AHI action.
- III. Implementation of plans calls for complex actions that cut across sectors and levels of government. A review of progress during the last six months indicates that success is dependent on sufficient cash being available where and when it is needed.
- IV. The AHI threat calls for an urgent response within each country. Essential funds have to be mobilized rapidly, usually before the national influenza plan has been finalized and appraised; before the financing framework becomes operative. Cash is needed both to ready the response to avian influenza, and prepare for a pandemic. The amount urgently required typically ranges from \$3 - \$6 million per country. Given the way in which avian influenza moves across borders, neighboring countries frequently try to mobilize emergency funds and plan AHI responses at the same time. Some countries can cover the urgent need themselves, others need help.

- V. On 29<sup>th</sup> March 2006, the UN Secretary General stressed that the threat posed by AHI to any one country is a threat posed to all countries. He said “Avian influenza threatens the entire world. It knows no borders. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that all countries - rich and poor - are protected and prepared”. He asked all who pledged funds at Beijing to commit their funds and do their best to make sure they are disbursed.
- VI. Money is essential, but on its own it is not sufficient to ensure success. The progress review has suggested that other factors are also important:
- The first is consistent political engagement and commitment, starting at the highest level, but involving all levels of government, plus private and voluntary sector stakeholders,
  - The second is flexible management systems based on accountability for planned tasks, procedures for rapid scale up of priority actions, regular reviews of results, and a capacity to shift program emphasis when necessary;
  - The third is well organized and coordinated support from outside the country – involving regional organizations, the UN system, development banks, donor community, and the scientific community.
- VII. This support from outside is often sought by national authorities as they work on the design of AHI actions. Many request technical assistance. Countries with restricted implementation capacity seek direct assistance with operations. They ask the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations System, (FAO, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR, UNEP, WFP, OCHA), plus UN Resident Coordinators, and their partners (including OIE and the Red Cross Federation) for help with implementing key actions. Governments also ask the UN to help them raise start up funds for urgent actions.
- VIII. At present, UN agencies and partners are under-funded have difficulty to respond to all the urgent requests for assistance by countries. UN agencies asked for USD 300 million in Beijing to cover their needs for regional and global actions until 2007. The pledge for the UN as a whole was around \$163 million, and the funds received to date have reached \$120 million. With the movement of avian influenza into Africa, the Middle East, the Indian Sub-continent and Eastern Europe since January 2006, UN systems agencies and partners are being asked to provide more direct assistance within countries. Their financial requirements have therefore increased, and funds are needed urgently – particularly for rapid responses to animal and human disease outbreaks. UN systems agencies have a shortfall of around USD 220 million which is needed by the end of 2006. The shortfall for the World Health Organization is particularly alarming.

- IX. It has become clear – over the last six months – that without assistance from UN agencies and partners, countries find it hard to implement effective action to tackle threats posed by Avian and Human Influenza. The lack of resources available to the UN system is unsatisfactory from the point of view of the countries, and of the world as a whole, given the threats posed by AHI.