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**STATEMENT ON THE ADVANCE MARKET COMMITMENT
FOR PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINES**

SEATTLE – The establishment of an Advance Market Commitment (AMC) for pneumococcal vaccines is an exciting step forward for global health. The governments of Italy, the U.K., Canada, Russia, and Norway have shown great generosity and leadership in supporting this initiative.

The Advance Market Commitment has the potential to help prevent millions of deaths from pneumococcal disease, one of the most devastating health problems facing developing countries. Pneumonia and meningitis caused by pneumococcal infections kill more than 1.6 million people every year.

By harnessing the resources and expertise of private industry, the AMC can help to significantly accelerate the development and introduction of pneumococcal vaccines. We also hope this effort will serve as a model for additional AMCs addressing other diseases.

Despite growing momentum to improve global health, the world still conducts far too little research on vaccines and treatments for diseases that affect developing countries. Today, the vast majority of medical research is devoted to the health problems of wealthy countries. Innovative financing initiatives such as the pneumococcal vaccine AMC can help close this research gap.

Note: Details on the AMC initiative are available at www.vaccineamc.org.

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Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to reduce inequities and improve lives around the world. In developing countries, it focuses on improving health, reducing extreme poverty, and increasing access to technology in public libraries. In the United States, the foundation seeks to ensure that all people have access to a great education and to technology in public libraries. In its local region, it focuses on improving the lives of low-income families. Based in Seattle, the foundation is led by CEO Patty Stonesifer and Co-chairs William H. Gates Sr., Bill Gates, and Melinda French Gates.

On the Internet:

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: www.gatesfoundation.org
Advance Market Commitment for Vaccines: www.vaccineamc.org