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Vaccine developers to make vaccines accessible to developing countries

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Singapore: Vaccine manufacturers from around the world have pledged to come forward to support the immunization of 300 million children in the world's poorest countries between 2016 and 2020.

Gavi, a global vaccine alliance, hosted Gavi pledging conference on January 26, 2015 in Berlin to mobilise funds for global immunisation programmes through 2020.

"It is encouraging to see vaccine manufacturers increasingly recognizing the importance of sustainable vaccine markets for developing countries," said Dr Seth Berkley, CEO, Gavi. "The commitments made today will help us make more vaccine doses available at a lower cost and will support countries as they move towards financing and sustaining their own immunization programs. This will lead to more children being protected and more deaths being averted."

Various initiatives taken by vaccine manufacturers include:

Biological E - Is offering a five-year price commitment to Gavi graduated countries for its pentavalent vaccine.

GSK - Extended it price freeze commitment so that developing countries that graduate from Gavi support will be able to continue to purchase vaccines against pneumonia, diarrhoea and cervical cancer at significantly discounted Gavi prices for a decade after graduation. GSK also reaffirmed that if the company identifies new manufacturing efficiencies that reduce the

costs of producing these vaccines, it will pass those savings on to Gavi and its donors.

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Janssen - Reaffirmed its pledge of making its pentavalent vaccine available at UNICEF prices to Gavi graduated countries over the next five years. Janssen also announced the launch of its pentavalent vaccine in cPAD, a compact Prefilled Auto-Disable injection system which helps improve injection safety.

Panacea Biotech - Extends its pledge, first made in June 2011, to support all Gavi graduated countries by offering a five-year price freeze on all vaccination programmes started with Gavi support. The price freeze commences from the first calendar year during which a country stops receiving Gavi support.

Pfizer - Agreed to reduce the price per dose for its pneumococcal vaccine, from US$ 3.30 per dose to US$ 3.10 per dose for the new 4-dose vial presentation which is expected to be introduced under the Advance Market Commitment programme in 2016. This new lower price will be extended to all Gavi-eligible and graduated countries until the end of 2025

Sanofi Pasteur - Committed to expand the production of yellow fever vaccine to address chronic shortages, and promised to offer Gavi-level pricing for Gavi graduated countries until the end of 2018. The company also announced the expansion of its EPIVAC vaccinator training programme in Nigeria, in collaboration with Agence de MÃ?Æ?Ã?Â©decine PrÃ?Æ?Ã?Â©ventive.

Serum Institute of India - Reduced its price for their pentavalent vaccines supplied to Gavi that is valued at approximately US$ 50 million dollars over the next two years.

Additionally, Merck and NewLink Genetics committed to provide their investigational Ebola (rVSV-EBOV) vaccine to Gavi-eligible countries at the lowest possible access price.

In a statement, the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and & Associations (IFPMA) said, "Vaccines are recognised as one of the most cost-effective health interventions, with potential for substantive, positive impact on health, productivity, and well-being across the globe. IFPMA member companies are proud of their role to help support strong immunization programs through ensuring sustainable research and development, manufacturing, and availability of high-quality vaccines."