



Supporting the “Drop the Malaria tax” campaign

Issue Context:

Forty-four Heads of State and Governments of African Countries met in Abuja, Nigeria on 25 April, 2000 and made a pledge (The Abuja Declaration) to reduce or waive taxes and tariffs for mosquito nets and materials, insecticides, anti-malarial drugs and other recommended goods and services that are needed for malaria control prevention (http://www.rbm.who.int/docs/abuja_declaration.pdf). Two years later, 26 of these countries have not implemented the necessary and agreed changes. Additionally, the need to control malaria issue is stressed in, among others, Agenda 21, Chapter 6, in the Millennium Declaration and is in the draft text “Plan of Implementation” to be signed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“WSSD”).

We propose to engage relevant stakeholders involved in tackling the incidence of Malaria in endemic areas, in particular, those that would be actively involved in the Drop the Tax Campaign, in a dedicated three day, professionally facilitated workshop in Johannesburg (August 24-26). All participants will be involved in development of and preparation for the workshop.

Purpose:

Our focus is to identify how to remove the harmful taxes and tariffs on products used to tackle Malaria. We offer the opportunity to use the WSSD in Johannesburg as a focal point for relevant stakeholders to get together and establish a way forward in this critical area.

The purpose of the workshop is to:

- Share perspectives and experiences develop common understanding of the trade and taxation issue and its impact on malaria control;
- Establish a shared understanding and vision among participants of the importance of improving communication with and between communities tackling malaria;
- Identify a measurable, achievable programme of action for removing remaining taxes and tariffs with responsibilities for all stakeholders clearly outlined;
- Agree the necessary/ desirable/ ideal structures for partnerships to tackle malaria; and
- Create networks for information exchange and shared resources to serve as on-going resource.

Background:

Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future is an international, multi-stakeholder organisation – a network and forum committed to the promotion of global sustainable development. For the last two years, Stakeholder Forum has been working towards WSSD and, in particular, the Implementation Conference (“IC”).

We acknowledge there are many initiatives tackling the incidence of malaria; we believe that a partnership approach to tackling this aspect of the problem may be successful in reducing cost and increasing access to these vital resources. Stakeholder Forum has spoken with a number of governments and stakeholders including academics, scientists, WHO, UNICEF, Roll Back Malaria and the Massive Effort Advocacy Campaign. All participants will be involved in development of and preparation for the workshop.