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**STATEMENT BY BILL GATES ON THE LAUNCH OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL FINANCE FACILITY FOR IMMUNIZATION**

SEATTLE – Bill Gates issued the following statement in response to today’s announcement that the governments of the U.K., France, Italy, Spain, and Sweden have pledged commitments to fund a \$4 billion International Finance Facility for Immunization (IFFIm), which will support childhood vaccine programs through the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI):

“The commitments announced today provide a major boost to GAVI’s work to ensure that all children – no matter where they are born – have access to lifesaving vaccines. I commend the U.K., France, Italy, Spain, and Sweden for their generosity, and Gordon Brown for his tireless work to make this announcement possible.”

“Melinda and I believe that supporting GAVI is the best investment we’ve ever made. In just five years, GAVI has immunized tens of millions of children in the developing world, and saved hundreds of thousands of lives – that’s extraordinary progress.

“The IFFIm will provide major new resources for GAVI to extend the reach of its programs. These funds are urgently needed – it’s unacceptable that each year, 27 million children go without immunizations that are taken for granted in rich countries.

“The IFFIm is a bold and innovative approach to financing critical global health programs. The facility will make additional funds available more quickly to strengthen immunization systems, and make aid more stable and predictable over time. I hope that other donor governments will come on board to support the IFFIm.”

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Bill Gates is co-founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

**About the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to promote greater equity in four areas: global health, education, public libraries, and support for at-risk families in Washington state and Oregon in the U.S. The Seattle-based foundation joins local, national, and international partners to ensure that advances in these areas reach those who need them most. The foundation is led by Bill Gates’ father, William H. Gates Sr., and Patty Stonesifer, and has an endowment of approximately \$28 billion.

On the Internet: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, [www.gatesfoundation.org](http://www.gatesfoundation.org)