



# *Ministero della Salute*

## **Statement from Italy on Global Technical Strategy and Targets for Malaria 2015-2030**

### **136<sup>TH</sup> SESSION EB**

The Government of Italy notes with appreciation the progress made over the last decade in reducing the global malaria burden. Since 2000, thanks to synergies between international, bilateral and government efforts as well as to the contributions, channelled through the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, malaria deaths have decreased by 47% globally and by 54% in the African Region. The international and domestic funding for malaria control and elimination totalled USD 2.7 billion in 2013, representing a three-fold increase in funding compared to 2005. A total of 64 malaria endemic countries are now on track to meet the MDG target of reversing the incidence of malaria by 2015, and reductions in malaria deaths in children contribute substantially to progress towards achieving the target for MDG 4. Yet malaria still represents a major cause of suffering and economic losses with almost 200 million cases and nearly 600.000 deaths every year, mainly in the Africa Region.

The Government of Italy supports the draft resolution sponsored by the Governments of South Africa, US and other calling for the adoption of Global Technical Strategy builds on the progress made so far and sets new ambitious global targets to reduce global malaria incidence and mortality rates by at least 90% to eliminate disease in 35 new countries and to prevent its re-establishment in countries that were free of malaria in 2015. As Italy eradicated malaria only in the late thirties of XX century, we support the emphasis on accelerating progress towards elimination and maintaining a malaria free-status. The latter is relevant in view of the current massive increase in population

mobility and related threats of malaria re-introduction recently assessed in part of Europe as well as the several migrants rescued by the Italian Navy in the Mediterranean Sea during the past year.

The Government of Italy supports the new global target as they are strongly rooted in deploying interventions, which are currently available and high cost-effective, has realistic expectations of new tool generated by ongoing research and calls for increased mobilization of financial resources.

Additional internal resources are needed particularly to attack malaria in the poorest countries, which also bear the highest disease burden, especially in Africa. The resolution should also call explicitly for higher mobilization of domestic funds in line with the changes in the international funding landscape and increasing demand for co-funding by international agencies. Also financial sustainability is progressively increased as endemic countries progress along the pathway for elimination, which is one of the main pillar of the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030.

In conclusion, the Government of Italy welcomes a higher level of engagement of the WHO to provide support to the Member States in implementing the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030, including the mobilization of all required human and financial resources at Headquarter, Regional Offices and Country Offices, and, at the same time, a detailed monitoring and reporting to Member States of impact achieved by the assistance provided.