**Global Health Event Oslo, January 22 2013**

**Accelerating progress: Saving women’s and children’s lives in the coming decade**

**Thematic Session no. 3**

**Session title: Commodities Supply and Distribution: How to get more health for the money**

**Purpose of session:** To define a clear path of action for applying the most appropriate market shaping mechanisms to achieve more health for the money in relation to commodity procurement, distribution and use

**Desired outcomes**

1)     Participants are familiar with recommendations 1 & 2 (concerning market shaping) of the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children and understand where the use of market shaping mechanisms may be appropriate.

2)     Panel members discuss opportunities and criteria to get more value for the money in relation to medicines, vaccines and commodities.

3)     Elements of a workplan with examples of deliverables and next steps are agreed upon along with a timeline.

**Background information**

The UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children was born out of the UN Secretary-General’s Global Strategy, which aims to save 16 million lives by 2015, through increased access to essential medicines, medical devices and health supplies that effectively address the major preventable causes of death during pregnancy, childbirth and childhood. Although tremendous progress has been made since 1990, with reductions in maternal and child mortality over 40%, still millions die of preventable causes. The Commission estimated that an ambitious scaling up of 13 life-saving and essential commodities over five years would cumulatively save over 6 million lives. The estimated costs per lives saved are low and represent excellent global development investments. For example, more than 1.5 million children could be saved in the next five years with two effective treatments, oral rehydration solution and zinc, costing less than US$ 0.50 per treatment. In September the Commission’s report was delivered to the Deputy Secretary General, Jan Eliasson, at the UN General Assembly. It includes ten time-bound actions to dramatically improve access to the commodities, including the following recommendations:

1. Shaping global markets: By 2013, effective global mechanisms such as pooled procurement and aggregated demand are in place to increase the availability of quality, life-saving commodities at an optimal price and volume.
2. Shaping local delivery markets: By 2014, local health providers and private sector actors in all EWEC countries are incentivized to increase production, distribution and appropriate promotion of the 13 commodities.

**Tentative schedule for session**

Introduction by chairperson:

1. Ariel Pablos-Méndez - 3 minutes

Introductory lecture:

1. Ira Magaziner – 15 minutes

Panelist introductions:

1. Denis Broun – 3 minutes
2. Mark Dybul – 3 minutes
3. Seth Berkley – 3 minutes

Discussion time (open to the audience) led by chairpersons: 20 minutes

Summary and closing by chairperson:

1. Kathy Calvin - 3 minutes