

# Report of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE)

Geneva, 7–9 July 2003

Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals



World Health Organization

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# Abbreviations

AD	auto-disable (syringes)
ADIPs	accelerated development and introduction plans
AFP	acute flaccid paralysis
ARC	American Red Cross
AU	African Union
BSE	bovine spongiform encephalopathy
BSL-3	biosafety level 3
CRS	congenital rubella syndrome
CTL	cytotoxic T lymphocytes
DALYs	disability adjusted life years
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DTP	diphtheria–tetanus–pertussis (vaccine)
DTwP	DTP containing whole-cell pertussis
EB	Executive Board (WHO)
EMA	European Medicines Evaluation Agency
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
GMP	good manufacturing processes
GNP	gross national product
HCV	hepatitis C virus
Hep B	hepatitis B
Hib	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B
HPV	human papillomavirus
IPV	inactivated polio vaccine
IVAC	Initiative for Vaccine Research Advisory Committee
IVR	Initiative for Vaccine Research
JICS	Japan International Cooperation System
KFDA	Korea Food and Drug Administration

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LQAS	lot quality assurance sampling
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MenA/C	meningitis A/C (vaccine)
MHC	major histocompatibility complex (restriction)
Nm	<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>
NRA	national regulatory authority
OPV	oral polio vaccine
OSD	WHO Department of Health Service Provision
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PATH	Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (USA)
PDVI	Pediatric Dengue Vaccine Initiative
PsA	grade A polysaccharide (vaccine)
QSB	Quality assurance and safety of biologicals (V&B)
RACE	rapid assessments of cost effectiveness
RAT	rapid assessment tool
RFP	request for proposals
SARS	severe acute respiratory syndrome
TCG	Technical Consultative Group for Poliomyelitis Eradication
TSE	transmissible spongiform encephalopathies
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNF	United Nations Foundation
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAD	vitamin A deficiency
VDPV	vaccine-derived poliovirus
VF	Vaccine Fund (GAVI)
VN	virus neutralization (assay/titres)
WER	<i>Weekly Epidemiological Record</i>
WHA	World Health Assembly

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# Executive summary

## Background:

The Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) was established in 1999 by the Director-General of WHO to provide guidance on the work of the Organization and its Department of Vaccines and Biologicals (V&B). SAGE held its fifth annual meeting on 7–9 July 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland. The name of the Department has been changed later in the year to : Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB). It was however decided to keep its former designation for this report.

The SAGE meeting 2003 proposed four sessions: plenary, innovation, immunization systems and accelerated disease control. Presentations covered the main achievements and challenges facing the Organization and its partners. The mission entrusted to V&B: “a world in which all people at risk are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases”, is driven by nine targets grouped into the major programme areas: innovation, immunization systems and accelerated disease control.

The following section summarizes the main comments and recommendations made by SAGE, with regard to furthering V&B's work in these important areas. The complete list of recommendations and endorsements can be found at the end of the report.

## Plenary session

### *Polio eradication strategic approach 2003: revisions and risks*

Tremendous progress has been made in eliminating wild poliovirus: by the end of 2002 the virus was circulating in only seven countries. SAGE agreed that available

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