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## **Novartis welcomes endorsement of Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework at World Health Assembly**

- *Framework aims to improve effectiveness of responses to future pandemics and outlines principles for influenza virus and benefit-sharing*
- *Novartis reiterates commitment to global pandemic preparedness, including support for affordable and equitable access to pandemic vaccines for developing countries*

**Basel, May 19, 2011** – Novartis welcomes the decision to endorse the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework (PIP Framework) at the Sixty-fourth World Health Assembly. The PIP Framework sets out the roles and commitments of different stakeholders, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and vaccine manufacturers, in pandemic preparedness.

The PIP Framework provides additional transparency and certainty to the influenza virus and benefit-sharing process for all stakeholders. It will strengthen the WHO GISN (Global Influenza Surveillance Network), which is critical for rapid vaccine production during a pandemic outbreak. The Framework is also an important step towards affordable and equitable access to pandemic vaccines for developing countries. Public stakeholders and industry will work together to implement access strategies for low-income countries with the objective of building a sustainable supply for all. Beyond its contribution to the GISN, Novartis plans to dedicate a portion of its global pandemic manufacturing capacity to developing countries based on a tiered-pricing model.

“At Novartis we remain dedicated to working with the WHO and other stakeholders to further strengthen global pandemic preparedness.” said Andrin Oswald, Head of Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics. “Where supported by demand for seasonal vaccines, we are collaborating with local partners to expand production capacity in developing countries. Furthermore, we continue to invest in innovation to make influenza vaccine production faster and more affordable, such as using our adjuvant technology that can increase our production output during a pandemic by up to four-fold.”

As a leading vaccine manufacturer, Novartis was at the forefront of the global pandemic response efforts during the 2009 A(H1N1) influenza pandemic. In addition to facilitating access to pandemic vaccines for developing countries through a tiered-pricing model, Novartis transferred vaccine and adjuvant production technologies to enable localized production and increase global production capacity.

“We now look forward to an open dialogue with the other stakeholders and working together to achieve a comprehensive and balanced implementation of the Framework based on agreed principles,” added Oswald.

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“look forward to,” or similar expressions, or by express or implied discussions regarding the development, approval, manufactured and distribution of potential future pandemic flu vaccines or regarding potential future revenues from such vaccines. You should not place undue reliance on these statements. Such forward-looking statements reflect the current views of management regarding future events, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. There can be no guarantee that any future pandemic flu vaccines will be developed, approved, manufactured or distributed in any market. Nor can there be any guarantee that such vaccines will achieve any particular levels of revenue in the future. In particular, management’s expectations regarding such vaccines could be affected by, among other things, unexpected disease patterns; unexpected regulatory actions or delays or government regulation generally; unexpected clinical trial results, including unexpected new clinical data and unexpected additional analysis of existing clinical data; unexpected manufacturing difficulties; competition in general; government, industry and general public pricing pressures; the company’s ability to obtain or maintain patent or other proprietary intellectual property protection; the impact that the foregoing factors could have on the values attributed to the Novartis Group's assets and liabilities as recorded in the Group's consolidated balance sheet, and other risks and factors referred to in Novartis AG’s current Form 20-F on file with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those anticipated, believed, estimated or expected. Novartis is providing the information in this press release as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this press release as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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