the last word:

Securing a better tomorrow

On 7-8 June, the leaders of the G7 met in Elmau, Germany, at their annual summit to address the complex challenges facing humanity under the guiding principle “Think ahead. Act together”. The aim was to devise action plans for issues ranging from climate change to safeguarding children. Here, International Innovation presents health-related excerpts from the G-7 Leaders’ Declaration

THE G7 FEELS a special responsibility for shaping our planet’s future. [...] We have today agreed on concrete steps with regard to health, the empowerment of women and climate protection, to play our part in addressing the major global challenges and to respond to some of the most pressing issues in the world. [...] 

HEALTH SYSTEMS 
The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being. We are therefore strongly committed to continuing our engagement in this field with a specific focus on strengthening health systems through bilateral programmes and multilateral structures. [...] 

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE 
Antimicrobials play a crucial role for the current and future success of human and veterinary medicine. We fully support the recently adopted WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance. We will develop or review and effectively implement our national action plans and support other countries as they develop their own national action plans.

We are strongly committed to the One Health approach, encompassing all areas – human and animal health, as well as agriculture and the environment. We will foster the prudent use of antibiotics and will engage in stimulating basic research, research on epidemiology, infection prevention and control, and the development of new antibiotics, alternative therapies, vaccines and rapid point-of-care diagnostics. [...] 

NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES 
We commit ourselves to the fight against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). We are convinced that research plays a vital role in the development and implementation of new means of tackling NTDs. We will work collaboratively with key partners, including the WHO Global Observatory on Health Research and Development. In this regard we will contribute to coordinating research and development (R&D) efforts and make our data available. [...] As part of our health system strengthening efforts we will continue to advocate accessible, affordable, quality and essential health services for all. [...] 

SAFEGUARDING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN 
We are committed to ending preventable child deaths and improving maternal health worldwide, supporting the renewal of the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health and welcoming the establishment of the Global Financing Facility in support of ‘Every Woman, Every Child’ and therefore welcome the success of the replenishment conference in Berlin for Gavi, the Global Vaccine Alliance, which has mobilised more than US $7.5 billion to vaccinate an additional 300 million children by 2020. We fully support the ongoing work of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and look forward to its successful replenishment in 2016 with the support of an enlarged group of donors. [...] 

FOOD SECURITY 
As part of a broad effort involving our partner countries and international actors, and as a significant contribution to the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we aim to lift 500 million people in developing countries out of hunger and malnutrition by 2030. The G7 Broad Food Security and Nutrition Development Approach [...] will make substantial contributions to these goals. We will strengthen efforts to support dynamic rural transformations, promote responsible investment and sustainable agriculture and foster multisectoral approaches to nutrition, and we aim to safeguard food security and nutrition in conflicts and crisis. We will continue to align with partner countries strategies, improve development effectiveness and strengthen the transparent monitoring of our progress. We will ensure our actions continue to empower women, smallholders and family farmers as well as advancing and supporting sustainable agriculture and food value chains. [...] 

G7 ACCOUNTABILITY 
We remain committed to holding ourselves accountable for the promises we have made in an open and transparent way.