

## PRESS RELEASE

### ***'Loss of antibiotic efficacy poses global risk'***

**Uppsala, Sweden:** ReAct congratulates the organisers of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland for including an open discussion on the future of antibiotics at their annual event this year.

The session 'What if All Known Antibiotics Lost Their Effectiveness?', to be held on 27 January 2012, is a timely recognition of the risk that bacterial resistance to antibiotics poses to the future of human health.

"There is an urgent need to make the *impact* of antibiotic resistance and the urgent need for research and development of new antibiotics more visible to policy makers and the public,' says Prof. Otto Cars, Executive Director, ReAct and a leading infectious diseases expert in Sweden. "However, it is essential that any new antibiotics are made globally accessible and affordable", he adds.

ReAct<sup>1</sup> is an independent global network for concerted action on antibiotic resistance. ReAct's vision states, "... current and future generations of people around the globe will have access to effective prevention and treatment of bacterial infections as part of their right to health."

The WEF Annual Meeting 2012 is being convened under the theme, '**The Great Transformation: Shaping New Models**', to define what the future should look like, aligning stakeholders around that vision and inspiring their institutions to realize that vision. "It is an indisputable leadership challenge that ultimately requires new models, bold ideas and personal courage to ensure that this century improves the human condition rather than capping its potential" says a description of the event on the official WEF website.

Welcoming the WEF initiative to take a long-term view and focus on antibiotic resistance at a time when a grave economic crises threaten the world economy, ReAct calls upon world leaders to start framing policies to ensure effectiveness of and availability to antibiotics for future generations.

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<sup>1</sup> ReAct acts as a forum for ideas, debate and collaboration between diverse stakeholders. ReAct also coordinates many specific activities and concerted action planning with these groups aiming to create the environment for policy, programme and community action on antibiotic resistance at global, national and local levels. ReAct does not accept funding from the pharmaceutical industry.

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