

Media Advisory WHO/19
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GOVERNMENT LEADERS PLEDGE ACTION ON HEALTH CARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTION

Geneva - Each year, hundreds of millions of patients worldwide acquire infections in hospitals. Now more than half the people in the world can look forward to cleaner and safer care, and a lowered risk of becoming ill with an infection as a result of their health care. That is because they live in one of the 22 countries whose governments have pledged to become part of a worldwide movement to address health care-associated infections, under the Global Patient Safety Challenge: *Clean Care is Safer Care*.

On 10 November, 11 more countries — Australia, Belgium, Bhutan, Costa Rica, Finland, Kenya, Luxembourg, Singapore, Sudan, Uganda and the United States— will sign statements of commitment to the initiative. Seven countries and regions — Bangladesh, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States, Hong Kong SAR, Ireland, Italy, Scotland, Spain— will report on their first year of achievements as part of the Global Patient Safety Challenge

- WHAT:** One-year anniversary of the Global Patient Safety Challenge: Clean Care is Safer Care
- WHEN:** Press conference, 10 November 2006, 12:45-13:30,
- WHERE:** Salle de presse III, Palais de Nations, Geneva
- WHO:** Dr M. L. Avila-Agüero, Minister of Health, Costa Rica
Mr R. Demotte, Minister of Public Health and Social Affairs, Belgium
Mr M. di Bartolomeo, Minister of Health, Luxembourg
Dr S. Malinga, Minister of Health, Uganda
Mrs C.K. Ngilu, Minister of Health, Kenya
Sir Liam Donaldson, Chair, WHO World Alliance for Patient Safety, Switzerland
Professor Didier Pittet, Leader, Global Patient Safety Challenge, Switzerland

For further information, to make direct contact with the video-link sites or to arrange interviews, please contact:
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