

Provisional agenda: Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property

Statement

Thanks Chair. MMI appreciates the opportunity to address the EB. This statement is supported by PHM.

We welcome the report regarding the implementation of the GSPOA – one of the most important resolutions of the WHO in ensuring diagnostics, vaccines and medicines are available at affordable prices to ensure access and health for all. We note with concern the underfunding of the Global Observatory. The Observatory is critical for R&D monitoring, coordination and prioritisation. We call upon the Secretariat to treat it as a core activity and provide funding from its core budget. We urge MS to contribute to the functioning of the observatory.

We call upon the DG to establish the Expert Committee on Health Research and Development, an important pillar for R&D prioritisation.

We urge MS to provide the secretariat with a clear mandate to implement all 33 recommendations of the Expert Group. This includes implementing new schemes which partially or wholly delink product prices from research and development (R&D). Furthermore, we look forward to MS discussion regarding recommendations 4, 27 and 28 previously deemed as not emanating from the GSPOA. In particular, we would like to remind MS of the crucial need for transparency of R&D costs to achieve fairer drug pricing and increased access and affordability.

We urge the MS to highlight the need for commitments to sustainable, adequate and untied funding mechanisms, especially from high-income-countries, and to ensure that decisions over funding allocations are not captured by donors.

Finally, we thank the secretariat to initiate steps to implement the recommendations of CEWG, which recommended an international legal instrument for R&D coordination and financing.