

## **Provisional agenda: Primary Health Care**

### **Statement**

MMI appreciates the opportunity to address the EB. This statement is supported by PHM. We welcome WHO's renewed commitment to the cause of PHC and support the draft operational framework "PHC: transforming vision into action" and the specific interventions included. We urge the EB to give it the necessary support for its prompt adoption and hope it will create the necessary capacity to strengthen Comprehensive PHC approaches to national health systems. We urge MSs to ensure that the document considers and promote health as a human right.

We urge MSs to include community empowerment as part of the operational levers and assure acceptability and responsiveness of services, grievance redressal systems and systems for planning, review and monitoring by the community. Further, participation of the most vulnerable groups needs to be ensured.

We are concerned that the proposed partnership with private sector providers for 'delivery of integrated services' contradicts global evidence in achieving equity in health. The emphasis within the draft framework should be on developing and strengthening the public health system to deliver health care services. If engaged, private sector providers should be well regulated and emphasis be given on accountability mechanisms and protection of patient's rights. We notice the absence of reference to the structural causes of health inequity, such as free trade agreements, for instance. We urge MSs to mandate the WHO secretariat to develop health impact assessments of FTAs. We urge the WHO secretariat to strengthen the capacities of MSs to create appropriate mechanisms to ensure that people's health needs are not subordinated to commercial interests and profits.