

Statement on agenda Item: 11.8

Follow-up to the high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly on health related issues - Ending Tuberculosis

This statement is my MMI and supported by PHM and TWN.

We take this opportunity to highlights the high cost of DR TB. As mentioned in the Secretariat Report in 2017 out of 5,58,000 DR TB patients only one in four of them were enrolled in care. The high prices of the two new medicines viz. Delamanid and Bedaquiline for the DR TB treatment are very costly and compromises the ability of MS to provide treatment to the needy patients. The cost of Delmanid is USD 1700 for a six-months course. South Africa negotiated and reduced the price Bedaquilen to USD 400. "An academic institution has calculated that Bedaquiline could be produced and sold at a profit at a price of \$16 per month at volumes of 108,000 treatment courses per year". This shows the high-profit companies are making out of the humanitarian crisis.

Bedaquiline is patented in most of the high burden countries like India, China, Russia, South Africa etc. We call upon the Member States to reject the medicine donation program and issue a compulsory license or Government Use to ensure access at affordable prices.

We also take this opportunity to express our concern that the Board of Stop TB Partnership, One of the WHO's Partner, is represented by a company that manufactures Bedaquiline.

Total: 218 words

Statement to be read by: Heba Wanis

Contact (phone, e-mail): h.wanis@gmail.com