

Statement on agenda Item: 12.1

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework for the sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits

This statement is supported by Medicus Mundi International, Peoples' Health Movement and Third World Network

First, we are concerned that the decision text goes beyond the scope of the PIP Framework as it extends to seasonal flu viruses.

Secondly, we recall that the 2016 Expert Review Group recommended that the definition of the PIP biological material in the Framework should explicitly include Genetic Sequence Data.

The proposed decision text falls short of this recommendation.

Sequence Data is part of the PIP Framework, with countries requested to share such data in a timely manner. Biological material is generated from the sequence shared. Hence it is only equitable that as with biological materials, sequence data also triggers all components of the Framework including SMTA1 and SMTA2. Influenza product manufacturers using genetic sequence data should commit to benefit sharing. However, the decision text fails to achieve this result undermining the "equal footing" principle of the Framework and thus pandemic preparedness and response.

We urge the DG to take immediate steps to address this lack of equity in the Framework.

Third, there is no explicit reference to data access and use agreement which has been identified by WHO expert groups as the ideal option for monitoring receipt and use of sequence data.

Thank you

Total: 210 words

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