

8. Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property

Statement:

This statement by MMI is supported by PHM. Delaying the implementation of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action (GSPOA) undermines access to healthcare. We therefore welcome the plan of action identifying the actions, indicators and deliverables for realising the GSPOA. However, the plan of action has significant shortcomings:

The DG's report on Member States' responses to the questionnaire on implementing GSPOA is not available yet, thus limiting the plan's engagement with WHO's key constituency. The recommended plan is not supplemented with the status of the proposed indicators. The plan for transparency is limited to transparency in pricing of medicines and should include more information on supply and distribution chain costs. Finally, insufficient funding continues to be a barrier for achieving GSPOAs goals.

We wish to draw attention to three recommendations: on shortages of medicines, transparency, and R&D costs (0.1% of research budget), that did not meet consensus. We therefore call for more discussion and recommend separating the R&D costs from retail prices.

Efforts for strengthening the collaborative clinical trial registration processes responding to Recommendation 9 should be supplemented by developing pathways supporting public sharing of clinical trial results and any associated public funding for the same.

We support the draft resolution on strengthening local production of medicines and other health technologies. This requires transparency regarding research costs and the costs of producing new drugs in circumstances when patents undermine technology transfer. WHO should oblige Member States, institutions and companies receiving public funding for R&D to make all data associated with it publicly available.

Finally, we call on WHO and its partners to include removing the obstacles to the use of TRIPS flexibilities in this plan of action.