

Statement to the 74th Session of the World Health Assembly, 24 May to 1 June 2021
on agenda item 13.4 Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property

Thank you, Chair. Medicus Mundi International would like to take this opportunity to address agenda item 13.4. This statement is supported by the People's Health Movement.

We welcome the report addressing the progress made on the GSPOA as well as the draft resolution on strengthening local production of medicines and other health technologies to improve access. However it is disappointing that full responses of MS on progress on implementation of GSPOA (questionnaire) wasn't made available in time for the WHA74. We look forward to reading responses of the MS in this regard. Moreover the report and implementation plan does not give an updated status of the indicators. We invite the secretariat to complement the implementation plan with updated the status of each of the indicators.

Furthermore, we urge that the efforts for strengthening the collaborative registration processes responding to Recommendation 9 be supplemented by developing pathways supporting public sharing of clinical trial results and any associated public funding for the same. On Recommendation 14 calling for reporting mechanisms to facilitate technology transfer, we would reiterate the need to take into account an obligatory framework as per the PIP framework, particularly in the context of COVID-19 .

We urge the MS to untie their funding to allow for sustainable effective funding of the secretariat's work, including the implementation of the GSPOA implementation plan. The implementation plan is due to expire in 2022 as per the WHA68.18, therefore the DG and MS should consider the extension of the GSPOA beyond this time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reiterated the importance of local production of medicines and other health technologies. We urge MS and the secretariat to also support the TRIPS waiver proposal at the WTO to facilitate local production and allow timely, affordable access to Covid-19 products.