

Statement by Medicus Mundi International to the 70th session of the World Health Assembly on agenda item 13:5 Follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination

MMI takes this opportunity to address agenda item 13.5. Our statement is supported by PHM.

We appreciate the strategic workplan in WHA66.22, but are concerned that it does not address the core aspiration of the CEWG process, that of a sustainable and novel model of incentivising, coordinating, financing and regulating R&D, independent of market incentives, and designed to protect public health through a legally-binding R&D Convention.

The negotiation of an R&D Convention that would delink the cost of R&D from the prices of medicines was one of the key recommendations of the CEWG report as well as of the UNHLP report on access to medicines. This recommendation had also been advanced by the report of the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health in 2006 and in the GSPOA in 2008. However, after more than ten years of tireless calls to seriously consider this recommendation, coming from civil society organizations and some MS, it has not yet been addressed.

As provided in resolution 69.23, we urge MS to consider the convening of an open ended meeting in 2017, in order to continue the discussions on the remaining issues, especially to start discussions on the R&D Convention, taking into account the UNHLP report that access to medicines issues are not confined to LMICs, but are now global issues.

Given that CEWG principles of affordability, effectiveness, efficiency, equity and delinkage are relevant to all R&D initiatives, we welcome that the Principles are being applied in some WHO R&D initiatives. In particular, as AMR initiatives progress fast within and outside the WHO, we stress that these should abide by the CEWG Principles, including the AMR Development and Stewardship Framework. Finally, we urge WHO to advocate for these principles to be included in R&D initiatives outside the WHO as well.

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