

Statement to the 69th World Health Assembly

Agenda item 16.2 Follow-up to the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination? Report of the open-ended meeting of Member States

Thank you, Chair, for giving us the opportunity to address the distinguished members of the WHA on behalf of MMI, PHM and UAEM.

In the wake of the current Zika epidemic and the failed response to the Ebola crisis, the principles put forth by the CEWG continue to be crucial in the discourse of ensuring access to medicines for all. Thousands of students across the world, together with 450 academics and 4 Nobel Laureates in Economics and Medicine have most recently come together to plead with MSs locked in negotiations to understand that a truly sustainable R&D-system must be guided by effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and grounded in the concepts of delinkage and knowledge-sharing.

We welcome progress made in monitoring R&D-efforts in global health via the Observatory. However, we urge the resolution drafting group to emphasize that the Observatory will only deliver if it is part of a wider framework, one that encompasses not only NTDs such as Mycetoma, but also addresses the crushing burden of NCDs on premature death in developed countries. We cannot continue to discriminate priority of life based on geographic origin.

We remain encouraged by the sense of urgency expressed by the formation of the UNHLP on Access to Medicines and the UN High Level Meeting on AMR. We must ensure there remains policy coherence within recommendations put forth, including the proposed R&D Blueprint for emerging pathogens and the AMR Global Action plan, in order to prevent fragmented efforts to prevent our goal for full implementation of CEWG-principles.

It is time we recognized that our current system for incentivising innovation through government enforced monopolies is unsustainable for all nations. We urge all MS to take this into account as you continue negotiations throughout the week. We simply cannot afford 10 more years of idle discussions to continue.

Statement delivered by: Alexandre Gajardo

Contact for enquiries: alexandre_gajardo@hotmail.com