

11.7 Access to medicines and vaccines

We congratulate WHO on the Road map and urge MS's to support it with appropriate funding. However, we would like to point out the usage of 'fair price' in the document as a term that would legitimise High Prices. The document also needs a stronger position on supporting MS that wish to use TRIPS flexibilities such as compulsory licensing.

Transparency is the first step to establish a sustainable and public-(health)-oriented system. Urgent action is required to remove the information asymmetry related to medicines, vaccines, and devices. Governments and WHO need to take measures to facilitate full information on prices, the cost of research and development, the outcomes of clinical trials, even the negative ones, and the patent landscape. This will be a key step in improving access to medicines.

But at the same time, it should be followed by more proactive actions by governments, including public manufacturing capacities, to make the system as a whole not wholly dependent on for-profit pharma.

Lastly, we would like to remind the Secretariat to update the SBP Evaluation Guideline as mandated under WHA 67.21 in 2014. Updating the guidelines will improve the affordability and accessibility of biosimilars for many in need.

Total: 203 words