

## **Medicus Mundi International**

Meeting: Seventy-first World Health Assembly (A71/1)

Agenda Item: 11.6 Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property

Statement:

MMI takes this opportunity to address agenda item 11.6. This statement is supported by PHM.

MMI welcomes the report of the OPR on the GSPOA. In particular, we appreciate the inclusion of issues related to transparency of R&D costs, support for use of TRIPS flexibilities, and the inclusion of the concept of de-linkage.

However, we wish to highlight some issues.

Firstly, we are deeply disappointed by the extremely poor record as regards implementation of the GSPOA. 10 years have passed since the GSPOA was first introduced. We are also deeply concerned by the attempts of some MS to obstruct the funding of the programme. We urge MS to take decisive steps towards the full implementation of the programme and to commit to the financial contribution envisioned in the report of at least 0.01% of GDP for basic and applied research relevant to the health needs of developing countries.

Secondly, the report does not outline any timeline for further steps. Millions of people continue to die each year due to the lack of access to medicines. We cannot afford a delay of another 10 years. We therefore urge MS and the Secretariat to set a clear time-frame so that concrete time bound targets can be set and progress monitored.

Thirdly, we would like to propose that the classification of diseases by types is not rational as it ignores the actual health needs of developing countries. We call upon MS and the Secretariat to move beyond this narrative.

Lastly, we wish to remind everyone that one of the principal outcomes expected of the GSPOA is a binding R&D treaty. Therefore, we urge MS and WHO to commence the process of negotiating such a treaty immediately.