

Statement by Medicus Mundi International to the 138th session of the Executive Board on agenda item 9.3 Global vaccine action plan

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the opportunity to address the distinguished members of the World Health Assembly on behalf of Medicus Mundi International and the People's Health Movement.

The resolution on Global Vaccine Action Plan adopted at the WHA68 (WHA68.6) provides a comprehensive framework to address issues regarding access to vaccines. The resolution reports on progress made (OP2.9) since the resolution was adopted. The report fails to address several issues identified in the Resolution. We urge MS to ask for a comprehensive and systematic report on the implementation of the Resolution.

Data regarding introduction of new vaccines cannot be the sole or even principal measure of success of the global vaccine action plan. Introduction of new vaccines should be determined by countries on the basis of burden of disease, public health capacity, local manufacturing capacity -within the country or the region- and affordability.

The Resolution provided for WHO to develop a vaccine prices database (OP2.2) as well as monitor vaccine prices (OP2.3). We welcome that 40 MS have shared pricing data and encourage all other MS to do so.

The Resolution stressed on the necessity of reporting about "technical, procedural and legal barriers that may undermine the robust competition that can enable price reduction for new vaccines". In addition, improved coordination and funding of R&D is required to introduce new vaccines at affordable prices. We urge MS to demand for reporting on this important issue.

Pooled regional procurement as reflected in the resolution is the key for 24 middle income countries that have graduated from GAVI support. WHO can provide valuable data and technical assistance to support both local manufacturing and pooled procurement, as provided by the Resolution (OP2.4, OP2.5).

Thank you.

(282 words)

***The statement will be delivered by Lauren Y. Chan
Contact for enquiries: lyschan@gmail.com***