

Medicus Mundi International

Meeting:

Executive Board 142

Agenda Item:

3.1 Draft thirteenth general programme of work 2019–2023

Statement:

MMI would like to take this opportunity to address agenda item 3.1. The statement is supported by the PHM.

We appreciate the efforts made by WHO in facilitating a consultative process while formulating GPW-13. We also appreciate that the document recognizes that the work of the WHO is both technical and political in nature. We hope that the WHO will not hesitate to take bold political initiatives in the interest of public health.

We would, however, like to draw your attention to some of our concerns regarding the draft GPW.

WHO's funding crisis is not addressed adequately, nor does the GPW outline steps envisaged to address this crisis. We urge Member States to consider enhancing their untied contributions, at least to the tune of 10% for the next two biennia.

The document does not address the fact that the operations of TNCs in several sectors is a major contributor to ill health. We urge the WHO to incorporate this concern and also support a 'United Nations Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights' that has been mooted in the UN Human Rights Council.

We find it disappointing that key issues regarding access to medicines find no mention. The GPW fails to mention the use of TRIPS flexibilities to overcome IP barriers in accessing medicines, and delinkage of prices of new medicines from the cost of their development. We are concerned by the promotion of the concept of 'fair pricing' to replace the earlier concept of 'affordable pricing'.

It is also disappointing that the draft GPW does not address the issue of health worker migration, in the discussion on health workforce development.

Finally, we urge the WHO to effectively engage with civil society and we assure that we are committed to constructive engagement with the WHO under its new leadership.