

**Statement to the 68th World Health Assembly
on agenda item 16.4: 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.

We endorse the resolution presented by Libya highlighting the urgent need for transparent pricing of vaccines and clearer documentation of price barriers. We urge MS to keep the mention of "regulatory and intellectual property barriers that undermine the introduction of priority vaccines" in the Resolution. The resolution recognises the importance of competition to reduce prices and the need to support local manufacturing capacity in developing countries so that they can produce WHO-prequalified vaccines and make vaccines more affordable through generic medicines coming onto the market. We note that the entry of Indian generics into the market for Hepatitis B vaccines has brought the price down from \$23 to \$1.

We strongly support the pooled regional procurement as reflected in the resolution and mentioned by Ecuador which is the key for 24 middle income countries that have graduated from GAVI support this year.

We are concerned about the pressure on countries to introduce new vaccines in the absence of surveillance and information systems covering epidemiology, delivery, and evidence of safety and efficacy. The opportunity costs of introducing new vaccines need to be measured in terms of cost and health outcomes forgone.

We call upon WHO regional offices and country offices to provide the necessary support for fully informed decisions by countries on this issue, including guidance on the opportunity costs of expensive vaccines for low incidence conditions. This also requires that countries, which have not done so, proceed to establish and strengthen their National Immunisation Technical Advisory Groups as reflected in the Global Vaccination Action Plan.

We further urge WHO to give increased priority to the development of rigorous post-marketing surveillance systems including adverse events following immunisation.

Muchas gracias senior Presidente

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