

**Agenda Item: 8.4 Evaluation and review of the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property**

Statement: Medicus Mundi International would like to take this opportunity to address agenda item 8.4. Our statement is supported by PHM and TWN.

For the past years, we have continuously reiterated the importance of GSPoA. Indeed, we consider GSPoA as critical in ensuring innovation and access to treatments.

We note the preliminary report of the evaluation carried out by Capra International. In this regard, we call for the release of the final report as it appears not to have been made available. It is a matter of deep concern that the report indicates that there is extremely limited awareness about GSPOA among Member States and consequent weak engagement with the issues.

Overall the preliminary report of the Evaluation conducted does not bring provide novel or useful insights, but instead reiterates issues that have been repeatedly reaffirmed several times in the past. The Evaluation does not include the work of the WHO Secretariat, nor does it address important issues, such as the threat posed by TRIPs-plus provisions in trade agreements and high drug prices. It does not clearly identify as an issue, the undue pressure put by some powerful countries and pharmaceutical companies on developing countries, in order to prevent them from make full use of the TRIPs flexibilities. In addition, it has arbitrarily rejected the inclusion of the findings of the UNHLP report as an “area for further work”. The Evaluator has clearly failed to address the main issues and therefore to fulfil its mandate.

The Evaluation should inform the Overall Programme Review. The objective of conducting an Evaluation followed one year later by an OPR is not clear as the latter, in its proposed terms of references, has a very similar mandate as the Evaluation. We urge MS to demand a transparent and meaningful OPR with clear terms of reference.