

Statement by Medicus Mundi International to the 70th session of the World Health Assembly on agenda item 16:1 Progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Thank you, Chair for the opportunity to address the Assembly on behalf of Medicus Mundi International. This statement is supported by Peoples' Health Movement. We appreciate the efforts in setting SDG indicators that emphasize multisectoral actions to address social determinants of health, and strengthening of health systems. We support the focus on equity and justice to address the unfinished work of MDGs.

However, some areas require further consideration.

First, the structure of global economy underpins social and health development. This area, under SDG8, anticipates very high economic growth rates in LMICs based on the current corporate-dominated extractivist model. This approach cannot mitigate local and global inequities nor is it environmentally sustainable. WHO should point out this contradiction and strenuously promote the review of this economic model.

Second, as regards SDG Goal 3 which is related to good health and well-being; WHO should strongly advocate for increased investment on this, as well as on SDG6 ('Clean Water and Sanitation') to achieve sustainable health gains.

Thirdly, WHO should lead policies to regulate the increasingly monopolized and globalised food system which is simultaneously threatening food sovereignty and promoting unhealthy diets.

Fourth, SDG 3, which prioritizes Universal Health Coverage, requires an adequate and functional health workforce. The failure of the WHO voluntary code on the international recruitment of health workers means legally binding interventions are required and provisions are necessary so that sending countries get reimbursed for losses linked to health workers migration from the South to the North.

We urge WHO and Member States to structure health systems so that they are financed through general taxes and provisioned by public services. Such a model best promotes equity in health care access.

We also urge Member states to mandate the Secretariat to report the annual progress on health dimensions of all SDG goals so that WHO can institute adequate policies to achieve health equity.

The statement was delivered by Simrin Kafle.

For enquiries contact: simrinkafle@gmail.com