

Statement by Medicus Mundi International to the 138th session of the Executive Board on Agenda Item 10.3 - *Follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination — Planning for an open-ended meeting of Member States to discuss progress*

Thank you, Chair, for the opportunity to address the distinguished Executive Board on behalf of [MMI](#), [PHM](#), [UAEM](#), [HAI](#), [TWN](#) and [KEI](#).

We welcome the progress made in planning for an open ended meeting in March 2016. As mandated by resolution 66.22, the meeting should **assess progress** and **continue discussions on the remaining issues in relation to monitoring, coordination and financing for health research and development**, taking into account all relevant analyses and reports, **including the analysis of the CEWG report**.

The main recommendation of the CEWG report was a legally-binding R&D Agreement for medical technologies to address the unmet health needs of developing countries due to market failure. The same applies to the R&D crisis faced in Antimicrobial resistance and emergency. In resolution 66.22, discussions on the R&D Agreement were postponed to 2016. However, these have not been included in the provisional agenda of the Open Ended Meeting. **We urge Member States to ensure that the final agenda includes the discussion of the R&D Agreement.**

CEWG recommendations are to be implemented as a single framework, including financing priority areas identified by the Observatory, **by means of de-linkage and open access approaches**. We are concerned with the current fragmented implementation. The proposed TDR fund, relying on voluntary contributions, is contrary to CEWG recommendations. The current budget gap of 88%, that's 75 million dollars of the 85 million dollars for the demonstration projects and observatory, shows that voluntary funding is clearly unsustainable. This highlights the need for mandatory contributions for a new R&D framework. Creating an unsustainable fund does not align with the mandate of the GSPOA, the CEWG nor resolution WHA66.22 in Operative Paragraph 1 which mandates to "ensure sustainable funding for health research and development".

We urge Member States to start negotiations of the R&D Agreement this March. The meeting must include civil society. Few Member States and some corporations oppose the Agreement. Over 300 academics including Nobel laureates call for this new R&D framework. As stated in Article 19 of the Constitution of the WHO, 2/3 of the WHA are needed for such an agreement to be adopted.

Thank you.