



Universities Allied for Essential Medicines, statement on the resolution on the Follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination (CEWG):

UAEM went to the 69th World Health Assembly (WHA) with a simple and clear ask to Member States: move forward with negotiations on a global, binding Research and Development (R&D) Agreement.

In spite of several attempts to halt the implementation process of the recommendations of the CEWG over the years, a resolution containing some important paragraphs was finalized at Palais des Nations on Friday evening of the assembly.

R&D has been a theme echoing throughout the agenda of this year's WHA. We take this as evidence first, that our monopoly driven R&D system is continuing to prove itself as an underlying driver for many of the global health issues, which currently receives emergency attention from international society, and secondly that awareness of this fact is advancing.

UAEM is encouraged by the principle and necessary steps forward which have been undertaken by the Draft Resolution Working Group at the WHA, including the monitoring and prioritizing of health R&D efforts.

Several Member States have emerged as leaders in the discussions on coordinated efforts and sustainable financing for innovation and access to medicines for all.

UAEM would like to highlight 4 points in the Resolution A69/B/CONF./6:

- We are pleased to see the acknowledgement of the UN High-Level Panel (UNHLP) on Access to Medicines. The report of this panel will consider over 180 contributions from across all sectors, and it cannot be ignored in the continued discussions around coordination and financing for health R&D on any political level. We believe that future steps need to be coherent and based on best evidence. **Convening of an open-ended meeting of Member States is required to take into account conclusions of the UNHLP.**
- We look forward to the continued process of a Stewardship Framework for AMR, and we're pleased to see that AMR is also a subject in the resolution A69/B/CONF./6. If effectively implemented, we believe that CEWG principles can make the difference of the success of AMR related R&D and access to vaccines and antimicrobials. AMR could become the first example of a framework for R&D, and thus the first demonstration that if CEWG recommendations are implemented as one, change is possible and sustainable. **We look forward to AMR becoming a successful**

example and leading the way for a much wider-scope framework on R&D to be established.

- We welcome the request to the DG to promote policy coherence within the WHO on its R&D related activities. Full integration of CEWG principles is essential, including in the R&D Blueprint for Emerging Pathogens and the Global Action Plan on AMR. We would like to note that proactive efforts on policy coherence should not be limited to WHO-led initiatives, in order to mitigate fragmentation. Further, whereas the resolution paragraph 10 encourages the implementation of these principles in coming initiatives, it doesn't outline how these will come together under a coordinated framework as proposed by the CEWG. Promoting CEWG principles will not in itself achieve 'coordination and financing' of R&D, and the need for **a legally binding R&D agreement remains latent.**
- We continue to believe that a legally binding agreement facilitated through the WHO under the powers detailed in Article 19 of the WHO Constitution, needs to include a **mandatory financing mechanism to support coordination of health R&D.** We await with anticipation the next steps from the Director-General on the proposed voluntary pooled fund, as well as other initiatives to ensure sustainable financing for the coordination of health R&D.