

# Global Charter for the Advancement of Equitable Biomedical Research and Development

Biomedical research should be driven by people's health needs and underpinned by the universal right of all human beings to the highest attainable standard of health. The Global Charter for the Advancement of Equitable Biomedical Research and Development aims to build consensus on the key principles and practices needed to achieve a more just and equitable approach to R&D. It builds on previous work done by numerous international agencies, expert committees, civil society groups and academia, including the WHO Consultative Expert Working Group on R&D (CEWG) and the UN High Level Panel on Access to Medicines.

Agreeing that:

- We must prioritize the health and wellbeing of people over the drive for profits, and support policies and models of funding that incentivize research to most directly benefit the public;
- Today's profit-centered model of biomedical R&D has proven ill-suited to address the health needs of all people worldwide;
- To maximize the health impact of biomedical R&D, we need a new approach to R&D that delivers genuine innovation that is accessible and affordable for all, and that is governed by equitable principles and practices;

We hereby affirm that an equitable global approach to biomedical R&D should apply the following principles and practices:

- **Needs-driven:** R&D should be people-centered, tackle unmet health needs and strike a balance between addressing short term priorities (such as health emergencies), and long term needs (as indicated by the global disease burden).
- **Evidence-based:** all biomedical research should aim to build on existing knowledge and avoid duplication. Innovation that is truly novel and offers therapeutic benefit over existing treatments must be incentivised.
- **Openness, transparency and effectiveness:** achieving efficient and accessible innovation requires transparency and a culture of collaboration and openness, without legal or contractual restrictions to sharing data, study protocols, and results. Investments and costs associated with the R&D process should be laid open, and there should be transparency regarding the pricing of products.
- **Affordability and equity:** all products of biomedical R&D should be made available and accessible to the public at affordable prices.
- **Delinkage:** the incentive to research and develop new health technologies must be delinked from the prospect of reaping profits.
- **R&D as a globally shared responsibility:** these principles and practices should be adopted by all institutions and organizations that are involved in the biomedical R&D process.

By signing this Global Charter for the Advancement of Equitable Biomedical R&D, we affirm

- our support for policies and models of funding that incentivize research to maximise public benefit abiding by the principles and practices lined out above. Complying with these principles should be required for the granting and receipt of public money.
- our support for an international agreement on biomedical R&D that is coherent with this set of principles and practices.
- our commitment to a people-centred, needs-driven approach to R&D.

SIGNATURE