

Thank you, Chair. Medicus Mundi International would like to take this opportunity to address agenda item 3.7. This statement is supported by PHM.

I understand that discussions on Access to Medicines within WHO had already begun in 1998. This was the year I started primary school. After two decades of negotiating, setting up several working groups, evaluating and passing resolutions, it is time now to congratulate WHO and all member states for years of hard work. We have reached a decisive moment, and have not one, but two sets of meaningful recommendations on the table -- the UNHLP recommendations discussed under agenda 3.6, and the recommendations of the OPR of GOSPA. 2018 can be the year when WHO's efforts bear fruits, leading to real commitment and real actions.

We fully support the decisive actions the WHO, under its new leadership, is planning to undertake. The implementation of the GOSPA was mentioned in the GPW and we congratulate Dr Tedros for opening this window of opportunity. I, together with a whole generation of young practitioners and patients, people and politicians, would applaud your strong stand and commitment that publicly funded research should stay with the public and a new paradigm of transparency in prices of drugs and costs of drug development will be established.

We are particularly looking forward to WHO's norm-setting guidance and support from Member States in promoting an agenda that can make the global R&D Convention a reality. Such a convention, discussed in the HLP report, will help to delink the cost of Research and Development from the end prices of health technologies.

We urge the WHO and Member States to contribute to the momentous decision that will have a huge impact on the lives of millions of people who are currently denied access to essential medicines.