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Agenda item 12.8

Statement by Health Action International on the Resolution on GSPA

Respected Delegates,

I am representing Health Action International, an NGO working to improve access to essential medicines and encourage the rational use of medicines. We are grateful to the assembly for the opportunity to comment on this important topic.

The global community, including Member States, the WHO and civil society organisations have invested substantial resources and energy in developing the process that has led to the formulation of the Global Strategy Plan of Action. The GSPA has the potential to make a massive difference to the way in which innovations address the pressing concerns of poor people across the globe. In this context we would urge delegates to consider not rushing into a final consensus on all the issues at hand. It would be a lost opportunity if Member States did not take the time to finalise a plan of action that does justice to all the concerns and that truly serves the interests of global health.

Our first specific concern relates to the need to develop robust qualitative indicators to measure real health impact. Qualitative indicators are imperative for measuring the impact of the actions to be undertaken to ensure innovation in neglected diseases that strikes the right balance between intellectual property rights and public health.

Our second concern relates to the WHO stakeholder status in the Essential Health and Biomedical R&D Treaty. The WHO is currently not on the list of stakeholders and they should be. The commitment to the R&D treaty is one of the most promising outcomes of the IGWG process, which would allow global norm setting on many crucial issues. We wish to submit that retaining WHO as a stakeholder is essential to the success and legitimacy of the process of developing an effective and robust global R&D treaty that will make a major contribution to the promotion of public health.

Finally, we would also like to raise a concern of the non-inclusive process that has led to the finalisation of the GSPA. In the interests of maintaining the inclusive character of the entire two-year process, we urge delegates to dwell on the concerns we express, so that we can arrive at a final consensus that best captures the interests of public health.

Thank you very much.

Sophie Bloemen
Projects Officer
Health Action International