



Strengthening local production of medicines and other health technologies to improve access

Agenda item 13.4 Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property

Documents A74/10 Rev.1, A74/10 Add.4 and EB148/2021/REC/1, and decision EB148(5)

UICC, supported by the NCD Alliance, thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement and welcome the draft resolution on '*Strengthening local production of medicines and other health technologies to improve access*'. The current pandemic has shown the dire need to ensure access to NCD and cancer care and we support policies to increase the uptake of quality assured generics/biosimilars, capacity building for local manufacturers and efforts to facilitate the transfer of technologies.

NCDs cause 71% of global deaths and cancer is the second leading cause of mortality globally. However, with timely diagnosis and access to appropriate treatment, the global burden can be significantly reduced. We urge Member States to:

- Ensure the affordability and availability of quality assured essential medicines and diagnostics, based on national need and alignment with national lists for essential medicines and diagnostics for complementarity.
- Alongside strengthening regulatory capacity, utilise international support to address resources and capacity building for a sustainable procurement and supply chain.
- Ease COVID-19 related transport restrictions for controlled medicines for palliative care and consider local production solutions to meet the pandemic driven demand spikes for controlled medicines.
- Alongside NCD and cancer medicines, ensure access to and rational use of antimicrobials in addressing the growing problem of drug resistance, especially now. Key to addressing drug resistance is by ensuring access to the right medicines and diagnostics at the right time.
- Support and implement voluntary price transparency initiatives, as is being examined by the Oslo Medicines Initiative.

Urge WHO to:

- Expand the prequalification list to include more essential cancer medicines for increased access and affordability.
- Encourage and support increased awareness of patent databases to build capacity for the proper implementation of intellectual property laws in line with TRIPS that make use of its flexibilities to improve access.
- Engage civil society to strengthen access to essential medicines and vaccines and monitor progress towards these deliverables.