

## Medicines, vaccines and health products: Access to medicines and vaccines

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Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of the Union for International Cancer Control, supported by the NCD Alliance.

We welcome the report and efforts by Member States, WHO and key partners in improving access to essential medicines. A consistent emphasis on building strong and resilient health systems, with timely access to quality medicines and technologies will be essential to successfully deliver against the health-related SDGs. It is also an essential tool to support the 2017 cancer resolution and 13th GPW.

NCDs are the major cause of death and disability worldwide and Cancer is the second leading cause of mortality globally. There were 18.1m cancer cases and 9.6m cancer deaths in 2018, and these figures are forecasted to increase significantly to 29.5m new cases annually by 2040. However, with timely diagnosis, cancer can be treated successfully. We therefore urge member states to;

- **Ensure the affordability and availability of safe, effective and quality medicines and health technologies** using the WHO Model list of essential medicines, and with a focus on building effective regulatory systems, procurement strategies and policies for fair pricing
- **Build capacity for the proper implementation of intellectual property laws in line with TRIPS** and that make use of its flexibilities to improve access
- **Address the training needs of the health workforce** to strengthen supply chain management
- **Support the policy options in the WHO cancer medicines pricing report** which includes improving transparency and voluntary sharing of pricing and reimbursement information between countries
- **We also urge WHO to update the 2009 WHO Guideline on the Evaluation of Similar Biotherapeutic Products** as per the 2014 Resolution, the Q&A document alone is not sufficient
- **Call for increased public access to clinical trial outcomes**

We fully support WHO and Member States in their efforts to improve access for cancer patients worldwide.