



Statement to the 132nd Session of the WHO Executive Board on agenda item 5. WHO Reform

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the opportunity of speaking on behalf of Medicus Mundi International and the Democratising Global Health coalition.

At the Special Session of the Executive Board of November 2011, the Executive Board decided for an independent evaluation of WHO *"to provide input into the reform process through a 2 stage approach"* . The first stage should consist of *"a review of existing information with a focus on financing challenges [...], staffing issues and internal governance of WHO by MS."* Stage 1 was to provide a roadmap for the following stage.

We expressed then our immediate concerns with the proposed evaluation scope and process, because it runs counter common sense to have the evaluation *as "one input running in parallel to other aspects of the reform"*. The paradox is that now we are in a situation where governments have decided, are deciding and will decide on the future of WHO before the evaluators' recommendations are presented on issues of essential value for the implementation of a meaningful reform.

It should be noted that at stage one, the External Evaluator failed to meet the ToR mentioned above by focusing on WHO Reform as implemented at that point on time. This failure risks affecting the second stage, too.

Stage 2 of the evaluation will be under the responsibility of the EB, its legitimate commissioner, through a process that will also finalize its ToR.

In this regard, our concern is that, by focussing on *"WHO's readiness to take the reform forward"*, the second stage, like the first one, will de-route the original purpose of the evaluation, leaving out a number of crucial information for developing a Constitution-based vision of WHO's future role.

We firmly believe that the independent evaluation of WHO should produce a comprehensive and strategic situation analysis of WHO's current positioning on the overcrowded stage of actors influencing global health.

Thank you!