

**Statement by Medicus Mundi International
to the 132nd Session of the Executive Board
on Agenda Item 8.2 Pandemic Influenza preparedness:
sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines
and other benefits.**



Thank you Madame Chairman. I am making this statement on behalf of Medicus Mundi International, the Peoples' Health Movement and the Third World Network.

We would like to congratulate the Director General and the Secretariat on its efforts to operationalize SMTA 2 as well as benefit-sharing. We appreciate the efforts of the Secretariat, and the Advisory Group, in undertaking consultations and holding briefings for civil society on this issue.

However we would also like to raise 2 points on this matter.

Firstly, transparency with regard to implementation can be improved. For instance all SMTAs signed with non-GISRS entities must be made publicly available. Information on which entities WHO has sent a "Notice of commencement of SMTA 2 Negotiations" should also be made publicly available. Information as to which companies have contributed, the level of contribution, and the methodology of contribution should be made available.

On benefit sharing, it is important to establish a clear principle at the outset that is: If an entity uses GISRS and benefits from such use, a contribution is required.

Accordingly we are of the view that companies, universities, and other non-producing entities that acquire intellectual property on the basis of research utilizing GISRS materials must be required to make a partnership contribution to reflect the benefits that they derive from the WHO system.

We recall that the PIP Framework was developed to address the inequities of the previous GISN system, particularly of entities gaining access to materials, profiting from the use of the materials without committing to any form of benefit sharing. Thus it is important to ensure that this inequity does not re-emerge in the context of the PIP Framework. Towards this end, we believe it is critical that the Advisory Group and WHO define appropriate mechanisms to ensure that any entity that uses GISRS and benefits from the use makes a partnership contribution.

Thank you.