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Medicus Mundi International

Meeting:

Seventieth World Health Assembly (A70/1)

Agenda Item:

15.1 Preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, to be held in 2018

Statement:

MMI appreciates this opportunity to address agenda item 15.1. Our statement is supported by PHM.

We welcome the addition in Appendix 3 recognizing that cost-effectiveness analysis is a useful tool but should not be used as the sole basis for decision-making, and of the column setting out critical non-financial considerations that may affect the feasibility of interventions in some settings.

However there continues to be a strong focus on individual behaviour change. It is important that recommendations be expanded to better address the underlying social determinants of health and health system strengthening.

We wish to highlight the impact of drastic changes in food systems (particularly in LMICs), due to the promotion of unhealthy foods by the F&B industries. We encourage the addition of policy recommendations and specific tools for the regulation of trans-national corporate actors within the alcohol, food, and beverage industries. We urge MS to call for the GCM to have a mandate to support this regulation. We also urge MS to include collaboration with the HRC on a binding agreement on TNCs as a strategy for curtailing health damaging corporate practice in the GCM 2018-19 workplan.

WHO remains insufficiently protected from undue influence and COI in the area of NCDs. The GCM lacks provisions to prevent influence from big food, alcohol, beverage, tobacco and pharma, while WHO earlier recognised the struggle of countries to implement recommended policies due to influence of their lobby.

We would like to stress that the WHO can only be adequately protected if MS support the WHO with independent financing such as adequate assessed contributions. Therefore we hope that MS will view the current 3% increase in a first step in reinvesting in the WHO as the leading global public institution for health.

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