

**Statement to the 68th World Health Assembly
on agenda item 10.5 Statement on Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health,
Innovation and Intellectual Property**

Thank you Chair. I take the floor on behalf of MMI, PHM and TWN .

We welcome the extension of the Plan of Action. The Global Strategy on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property is a critical tool to ensure access and innovation in relation to health products. We welcome the extension of the Plan of Action in accordance with the same strategy to 2022.

We remind MS that the GSPOA emerged from the Commission for IP, Innovation and Public Health which itself emerged from struggles around the full utilization of the flexibilities of the TRIPS Agreement. Today the space for TRIPS flexibilities has been progressively reduced through TRIPS + provisions in bilateral and plurilateral trade agreements. In WHA59.26 this Assembly commissioned the Secretariat to provide advice to MS on the health implications of trade agreements but as a consequence of the freeze on assessed contributions and the lack of donor enthusiasm this resolution remains unfulfilled.

Nevertheless, the review process is a necessary step for the effective implementation of GSPOA. We call for a broad programme review of the GSPOA including its achievements, remaining challenges and recommendations as mandated by the WHA Resolution WHA62.16. A full and comprehensive review informed by a preliminary evaluation would be the ideal way to assess the plan of action and the performance of all the stakeholders and to steer the continued implementation the Plan of Action, based on the findings of the review.

The full participation of civil society organizations throughout the process of the review is essential for a productive and transparent process which canvasses all of the key issues.

Lastly, the funding problem still hasn't been addressed. We call for enhanced funding and recommend that Implementation of the GSPOA should be fully funded from- the core budget of the WHO.

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