Agenda Item: 10.1 Preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases in 2018

Statement:
MMI would like to take this opportunity to address the agenda item 10.1. Our statement is supported by the PHM.

We note with concern the overlapping mandates and forums governing NCDs globally, continued underfunding under the Financing Dialogue, and insufficient clarity regarding protections against conflicts of interest. We urge Member States to request guidance articulating procedures for the GCM to monitor and advise the DG of potential conflicts of interest in the implementation of the GAP and related policy areas such as cancer and obesity. Moreover, we urge MS to include collaboration with the Human Rights Council regarding their proposed binding agreement on TNCs to curtail health-damaging corporate practice in the GCM workplan.

For the mid-point evaluation of progress on the implementation of the GAP, we urge MS to request additional information about the selection of a 'representative group of stakeholders' and consider potential conflicts of interest in this process.

In the draft approach to register contributions of NSAs for NCDs, we welcome the stated need for 'protection from vested interests'. However, we urge MS, while advancing the development of the approach, to consider including both negative and positive contributions, permit independent registration, and provide a comprehensive assessment of contributions.

We note with concern the focus on behavioural risk factors rather than a broader public health approach in Appendix 3. We urge the Secretariat to revise Appendix 3 to include interventions regarding the SDH, robust health systems, and strong regulation of TNCs. Specifically, there should be recommendations for enhancement of trade and health policy coherence via Health Impact Assessment, an awareness of the possible negative impact of ISDS within trade agreements which compromise state regulatory functions, and capacity-building for the full utilisation of TRIPS flexibilities to ensure access to needed medical products.