

Thank you Chair. I am speaking on behalf of Medicus Mundi International, the Third World Network, among other organisations and coalitions of the People's Health Movement.

The report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development represents a milestone in global efforts to address multiple problems inherent in the commercially driven biomedical health Research & Development system, including insufficient health R&D, unsustainable financing, fragmentation, and a lack of access to the outcomes of essential health R&D. As stated in the CEWG report, these were identified over two decades ago. The CEWG report explicitly linked innovation in health R&D with the need for affordable access to the outcomes of this innovation. It linked the key elements of priorities, financing, coordination and access into a concerted global framework for health R&D into Type II and Type III diseases, and the specific needs of developing countries related to Type I diseases. These recommendations offer a paradigm shift through a legally binding instrument to meet the unmet R&D needs of developing countries.

However, the draft resolution represents a piecemeal description of the CEWG recommendations. It does not reflect the clear link between priorities, financing, coordination and access and key objectives and principles to ensure innovation and access. Nor does it conceive of the outcomes of publicly funded R&D as global public goods. It is also not clear if the pilot project would follow the principle of de-linking the cost of R&D from the price of the product.

Further, we are concerned about the language when it states the adoption of the resolution by the WHA without re-opening it. This might put pressure on Member States from exercising their right provided under the WHO Constitution.

Finally we would like to recall, as others have already done, that, while WHO is undergoing reform process and making efforts to ensure efficient use of resources, the neglected diseases draft resolution seems to ignore the CEWG recommendations and rather follows a fragmented approach.

Thank you.