

Thank you Chair,

Medicus Mundi International would like to take this opportunity to address agenda item 10.5. Our statement is supported by People's Health Movement.

We acknowledge that the report critically discusses inequalities in the burden, prevention and treatment of cancer between HICs and LMICs.

The current report is very similar to the decade-old WHA58.22 resolution, signifying limited progress in global cancer prevention and control.

The notion of “integrated care” mentioned in the title has not been substantially discussed in the report. It fails to recognize challenges in monitoring “standards” in cancer prevention, diagnosis, and care especially in the private sphere. Furthermore, it does not address the institutional challenges in fostering networks for efficient cancer care.

We urge the WHO to address the international pricing of vaccines, drugs, biologicals, and equipment for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer, just as it requested Member States in OP(1)(8) to address ‘patent barriers, quality assurance mechanisms, more effective supply systems, and measures to reduce prices’.

We urge WHO to support promotion of new models of innovation for cancer medicines, as outlined in the UNHLP on access to medicines. The currently market-driven system of R&D, relying on IP-protected monopolies as the main incentive for R&D, is driving the prices of treatments for NCDs, including cancer, to prohibitive levels and even HICs are adversely affected.

Noting the interference of the tobacco industry in public health policy, accelerating the implementation of FCTC is critical for the success of reducing cancer risk factors. We request for a similar framework to be adopted for regulating the food and beverage industry that contributes to the burgeoning burden of NCDs, including cancer.

We urge WHO to form a commission for a comprehensive and systematic report to address the issue, creating a clear, integrated action plan as done by ECHO on ending childhood obesity.

Thank you for your attention.