



72nd World Health Assembly

11.7 Addressing the global shortage of, and access to medicine

Honourable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Medical Association, which represents 9 million physicians around the world.

Recognizing the challenges that many still face in accessing safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines the WMA would like to remind this Assembly that equitable access to medicines and vaccines will contribute to the reducing health inequities and that it is a prerequisite for achieving Universal Health Coverage. We therefore commend the WHO on the elaboration of a comprehensive roadmap to achieving numerous concrete deliverables. Nevertheless, we note with concern the severe underfunding for work in this field and would encourage member state to ensure the necessary financial support for meeting all the milestones listed.

The WMA encourages the WHO to work on R&D, manufacturing and distribution models that address global challenges such as antimicrobial resistance, drug shortages and equitable access. Innovation should be driven by public health priorities and contribute to developing accessible necessary drugs. We urge the WHO to support governments who choose to use TRIPS flexibilities to access necessary drugs. And, we urge Member States to strengthen regulatory systems, and to increase transparency in drug pricing.

Our members are committed to advocating for the needs of their patients for safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines and vaccines and the WMA offers its support in building capacity of physicians worldwide on these issues.

Thank you,