

## **Statement to the Seventy-first World Health Assembly**

### **Agenda Item 11.6**

#### **Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property**

Thank you, Chair

Over a decade ago, the Inter-Governmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property agreed the Global Strategy and Plan of Action (GSPOA), aimed at responding to the imbalances in the R&D system and other obstacles to access to medical innovation. It is unfortunate that we have not been able to turn that early momentum into a tool for change.

Health Action International welcomes the work of expert review panel and note their recommendations. We encourage Member States to fund the implementation of the remaining activities in GSPOA and renew their commitment to fix a broken R&D system that still does not respond to the public health needs of large population groups.

Specifically, we support collaboration with other organisations to move towards the more effective implementation of Article 66.2 (Technology Transfer) of the Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) Agreement. The WHO should support the drafting of national legislation to make full use of the flexibilities contained within the TRIPS Agreement. Additionally, we call on WHO to continue collaborating with the Medicines Patent Pool, especially promoting the MedsPal database among Member States and other stakeholders.

Member States and other international bodies, such as the European Commission, must heed the call to take into account the public health implications of provisions that go beyond the requirements of the TRIPS Agreement when negotiating trade agreements. These include Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPC) and other intellectual property (IP) incentive mechanisms.

At a time when WHO is considering a roadmap on its work on access to medicines and vaccines, is critical not to forget, or leave unfulfilled, previous commitments regarding access to medical innovation.