

Obrigado Senhora Presidente,

First of all, Portugal thanks Italy for its leadership on this resolution and for the successful outcome of the negotiations.

Secondly, we thank all the delegations that participated in the long period of consultations, both during and before this Assembly, for their very constructive spirit, flexibility and openness. Regarding the process of the negotiation, Portugal fully subscribes the comments made earlier by Brazil and Spain.

We believe this resolution can be a game changer in the area of access to medicines! In the last years, Portugal has been expressing concern in this Assembly about the very high prices of some medicines and we have been stressing the impact that transparency in the markets of medicines can have in this regard.

As we have stated many times, *“transparency is a fundamental value of modern, open and democratic societies”*. This is the reason why Portugal decided to join, from the very beginning, the core-group of countries responsible for the presentation of this resolution. We are very satisfied with the end result. We understand that it is the result of a very broad consensus. Of course, we would also have preferred stronger language on transparency of costs, including of costs of R&D.

Finally, we believe that this resolution has the potential to bring us closer to our goal of achieving universal health coverage and of realising the right to health. The World Health Organization has a critical role to play in this regard, and we count on its leadership for the implementation of this resolution.

Thank you.