WHO Roadmap for Access to Medicines, Vaccines, and Other Health Products, 2019-2023
Agenda Item 11.7a

TALKING POINTS:

- Improving access to medicines, vaccines, and other health products is a priority for the United States, and we look forward to continuing work on this issue with the WHO Secretariat, its Regional Offices, and Member States.

- The current draft of the Roadmap is a useful description of WHO’s intended work on these issues over the next four and a half years. In particular, we appreciate the Roadmap’s general emphasis on strengthening regulatory systems, supply chains, and health care financing.

- However, we continue to have concerns that a number of the deliverables go beyond the mandate that WHO has received from Member States.

- For example, the Roadmap references the work of the CEWG, despite Member States’ deliberate lack of endorsement of that report. WHO appears to believe that it received a mandate to work on this issue from a recommendation of the GSPOA Review Panel. However, in WHA71(9) last
year, Member States ONLY authorized WHO to implement the Review Panel’s recommendations that were consistent with the original GSPOA.

- In addition, the proposals to facilitate a discussion on unifying principles for biomedical R&D and to promote R&D cost transparency are not connected to prior mandates.

- Having noted these concerns, we do not wish to delay progress on the many consensus-based and valuable work streams included in the Roadmap. Therefore, our delegation is willing to join in noting the Roadmap, but we would like the Committee Chair’s record to reflect our objections stated above, and we request confirmation that the Secretariat will not continue to work those areas in which there is no existing mandate for activity.

- We also wish to emphasize that WHO should follow through on its commitment to fully coordinate with WTO and WIPO on issues related to IP and trade. Collaboration with outside organizations, including other UN agencies, should be limited to work within those organization’s areas of expertise.

- Finally, we would like to reiterate our request from the 144th Executive Board meeting that the Secretariat provide annually to Member States (1) a description of the trilateral activities conducted over the previous 12 months; and (2) an updated version of Appendix 2.

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