EXECUTIVE BOARD

146th session

Geneva, 3-8 February 2020


STATEMENT BY BRAZIL

Chairperson,

I had notes to speak about yesterday’s headlines about the WHO agenda on access to medicines.

I will not use them.

I will not speak about the very low rate of implementation of a 12-years old Global Strategy, despite the many calls from all corners of the world for full and timely implementation.

I will not speak about the unfortunate and inexplicable lack of resources. Much less of the disregard for the implementation of previous resolutions and decisions, agreed by consensus by Member States.

I will not speak about the urgency of the matter for millions of persons whose lives, well-being and living
conditions are at stake for lack of access to affordable medicines and other products.

Chairperson,

I prefer to speak about today’s headline.

I am pleased to inform the Board that, as a result of five rounds of informal consultations since mid-January, we are able to submit a consensus-based draft decision, which is the one contained in document EB 146/CONF/13/REV. 1. [being translated by the Secretariat]

Allow me, before going over the main elements of this draft decision, to thank the other Co-Sponsors: Angola, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Israel, Mozambique, Russia, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Zambia and the Member States of the European Union.

I hope many others will be able to join our group.

As the facilitator of the informal consultations, Brazil is also grateful to all Member States that, despite different perspectives or sensitivities, have engaged actively and
constructively in our conversations on such a crucial topic for health **everywhere**.

Chairperson,

With your permission, I would then outline the main elements of the draft decision for the benefit of all:

- It is intended to give a **renewed political push** for the implementation of Decision WHA71(9), adopted two years ago. This is crucial in light of the situation of **low** and **slow** implementation, as described by the DG’s report, which we thank;

- That is why we reiterate to the DG the necessity to present the Implementation Plan, requested by **our 2018 decision** (*this is in paragraph 1 of the CONF/13 paper*). We are encouraged by the Secretariat’s assurances that the document will be ready by our next Assembly;

- In this spirit, the draft decision also proposes that the Assembly, in May,
  - urges Member States to **live up to** their commitment to implement the relevant recommendations of the
review panel consistent with the GSPOA-PHI (*this is the subparagraph 1*);

- sets the scene, through informal consultations to be convened by the Director-General in 2020, for the further discussions among Member States, **asked for** in paragraph 2 of Decision WHA71(9), **of 2018** (*see subparagraph 2 of the draft*);

- also, sets the scene, for informal consultations to be convened by the Director-General in 2020, on **promoting** and **monitoring** transparency of medicines and actions to prevent shortages (*this is in subparagraph 3 of the draft*);

- reiterates to the Director-General the need for allocation of the necessary resources for implementation of the Strategy, including from our budget and other resources mobilization efforts undertaken by the DG; (*subparagraph 4 of the draft*)

- and finally, requests the Director-General to report on progress of the implementation, including the results of the two informal consultations I have just
mentioned, to the Assembly in 2021, through a substantive discussion at the Board next year. *(subparagraph 5 of the draft)*

I am ready to provide any further information, as you may need.

Chairperson,

This decision is a much needed and very welcome message from WHO and the Member States about our credibility and the legitimacy of our collective action.

Let us now remain together to step up efforts towards the full and expedite implementation of the actions and activities of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights.

- Let us not wait until the next emergency of international concern to unite efforts to strengthen health systems by improving access to medicine.

Thank you.

USA – Important work does and continues to do.