



DELHI DECLARATION

IMPROVING ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL MEDICAL PRODUCTS IN THE SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION AND BEYOND

We, the Health Ministers of the Member States of the WHO South-East Asia Region participating in the Seventy-first session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia in New Delhi, India

Acknowledging access to effective, safe, quality and affordable medical products (medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and medical devices) is vital to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the 2030 agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Concerned that, despite overall progress, challenges remain in providing the right medical products at the right time to those in need, and availability often varies in healthcare facilities, and that significant levels of preventable human suffering result from people not receiving the essential healthcare they need, or being impoverished as a result of high out-of-pocket payments.

Acknowledging there are unique strengths in the Region in that several countries are major manufacturers of medical products, especially generic medicines, while certain countries source their entire medical products externally.

Reaffirming commitments by Member States in Regional Committee and World Health Assembly resolutions to improve accessibility and affordability by action on strengthening national policies, regulation, rational use, supply chain management, capacity to leverage intellectual property and trade for public health and building on SEA/RC70(3) decision on access to medicines and WHA71(8) addressing the global shortage of, and access to, medicines and vaccines.

HEREBY agree to the following:

1. *Reaffirm our commitment to attain universal accessibility and affordability of essential medical products by 2030* for achieving UHC and the SDG 2030 agenda and in particular health related goals.
2. *Leverage the strengths of the Region and its role as a major manufacturer of essential medical products especially generic medicines* to improve accessibility and affordability within SEAR Member States and beyond.
3. *Allocate sufficient financial resources to ensure universal accessibility and affordability of essential medical products* as part of overall health financing strategies to support UHC and reduce out-of-pocket payments.
4. *Continue the momentum to strengthen regulatory cooperation and collaboration* to improve the availability, quality and safety of essential medical products through the South-East Asia Regulatory Network (SEARN).
5. *Encourage regional information sharing on availability, price and quality of the medical products*, and best practices in strategic price negotiations for greater value for money for essential medical products.
6. *Develop an effective, transparent and participatory mechanism for regional price negotiation and/or pooled procurement* with good logistics to ensure accessibility and affordability of essential medical products for life threatening and rare diseases and those that are needed in small quantities including but not limited to antidotes, antitoxins and anti-venoms.
7. *Promote development of an essential medical products list*, in particular essential diagnostics list, for all levels of health care facilities, towards achieving UHC for improved patient care, affordability of quality tests, regulation, and greater capacity to diagnose diseases during outbreaks and strengthened capabilities of national laboratories.
8. *Promote appropriate use of medical products especially antimicrobials* in the community and in health facilities, through integrated measures including but not limited to education and training of the health care professionals to reduce irrational use and antimicrobial resistance.
9. *Encourage management of intellectual property and trade rules and full use of TRIPS flexibilities* for enhanced accessibility and affordability of new medical products, including new therapies, for priority diseases in the Region including tuberculosis, hepatitis and cancer.
10. *Promote innovation and investment in R&D including for neglected diseases*, encourage use of practically oriented health research, network of clinical sites, testing facilities for affordable medical products.
11. *Promote health information and logistics management systems to improve accountability and transparency of data on accessibility and affordability*, for greater value for money of pooled and/or general procurement of essential medical products, and track progress towards improved access to essential medical products by the population.

Welcome and appreciate the continued support of the WHO Director-General and the Regional Director for South-East Asia to improve accessibility and affordability of essential medical products within the Region and beyond.

Adopted in New Delhi, India, on the 4th Day of September Two Thousand and Eighteen.

Zahid Maleque
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh

Royal Government
of Bhutan

Democratic People's Republic
of Korea

Government of India

Republic of Indonesia

Republic of Maldives

The Government of the
Republic of the Union of
Myanmar

Federal Democratic
Republic of Nepal

Government of the
Democratic Socialist
Republic of Sri Lanka

Royal Thai Government

Democratic Republic of
Timor-Leste

Regional Director
WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia

Director-General
World Health Organization