

Sideevent application / Formulaire de demande de réunion parallèle

Contact

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| Name/Nom: Mr Khalid Atlassi, MinistreConseiller; DrSumit Seth, Counsellor (SS) & Head of Chancery | Date of application: 26 April 2018 |
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| Member States confirmed as co-organizers of the event/Etats Membres confirmés comme co-organisateurs de la réunion: | |
| India | |
| Several countries have expressed and will be confirmed in due course | |

Concept

Description of proposed side event, including objective, expected results, proposed programme and speakers* / Description de la réunion parallèle proposée, y compris les objectifs, les résultats attendus, l'ordre du jour et les orateurs* :

Description

Ensuring availability, accessibility, affordability and acceptability of medicines and vaccines in the developing countries and LDCs is the most topical and relevant issue in the global health dialogue. Increasingly, access and affordability issues have also affected the developed countries in meeting the needs of medical products to their citizens.

Following the success of the WHA May 2017 side event on Access to Medicines co-sponsored by Morocco and India and supported by Bolivia, Uganda and Venezuela titled '*Impact of the Recommendations of United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*'; it has been expressed that there is an ongoing need for a detailed discussion on the recommendations of the UNSG's HLP Report on access to medicines particularly with respect to the use of TRIPS flexibilities.

In line with the 2030 Agenda, there's also a need for better coherence across the UN.

It has been proposed by a few countries to create a new ad hoc agenda item on "IP and the Public Interest" at the WTO Council for TRIPS. The 2017 discussions focused on sharing experiences on the various recommendations from the High-Level Panel.

At the October WTO Council for TRIPS, several governments, including South Africa, who delivered a statement on behalf of Brazil, China, India, Fiji and others shared experiences in the use of compulsory licenses.

In November 2017, during the WHO Member State Consultation on the Global Framework for Development and Stewardship to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance, the Government of Egypt made an intervention highlighting the Panel's recommendations and the need to connect the global AMR response to the proposals to increase access to existing medicines/vaccines and promote new models for innovations.

In December 2017, during the 27th session of the WIPO Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) discussions on health and patents, the Panel's report was discussed.

There were several submissions made by governments and civil society, on the constraints faced by developing countries and least developed countries in making full use of patent flexibilities and their impacts on the access

to affordable especially essential medicines for public health purposes in those countries. for example, the Colombian Ministry of Health's submission. The government of Indonesia, on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group, proposed that WIPO initiate exploratory discussions on the Panel's report and the South African delegation reiterated its strong support for the Panel report and suggested WIPO SCP invite the Panel Co-Chairs to present the report at the next session.

India and Morocco want to follow up on the WHO EB January 2018 [EB142/13](#) (item3.6) agenda item on Addressing the global shortage of, and access to, medicines and vaccines where a number of key issues were raised. for example: The lack of access to medicines and needs-driven innovation has been under discussion at WHO for more than 15 years but this is the first WHO EB where several high-income countries openly raised their challenges with regard to high medicine prices and, asked the WHO Director General to prioritize this issue; A range of Member States mentioned access to medicines being essential to UHC and the 2030 Agenda, with several governments and many civil society representatives specifically referring to the Panel's report. Many countries mentioned the Panel's report and asked for implementation of the Panel's recommendations, including Algeria, Angola, Bolivia, Brazil, Egypt, Ghana, Morocco, India, Philippines, Portugal and Zambia; Transparency is an area where Member States across multiple regions had consensus and asked WHO to do more on transparency;

In addition, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the challenges caused by high prices and innovation gaps in health technologies continue to be a priority for many low and middle-income countries and there seems to be more dialogue and debate in a range of countries on strategies to promote health technology innovation and access.

The preparation for this side event will follow considering the statements made by several countries at the EB in January 2018 hyperlinked. ([Algeria](#)[Bhutan](#)[European Union](#)[Ghana](#)[Jamaica](#)[Panama](#)[Portugal](#)[India](#)[Republic of Indonesia](#)[Republic of Zambia](#)[Spain](#)[Sri Lanka](#)) and the decision taken

[http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB142/B142\(3\)-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB142/B142(3)-en.pdf)

Draft decision was proposed by Algeria, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Netherlands and Portugal.

During negotiations several other Member States announced they were co-sponsoring the decision point including Thailand, Egypt, Greece, Panama, Haiti, South Africa and Spain.

Objective

The objective is for the countries, World Health Organization and other related agencies such as WIPO and WTO to share this very important topic with much urgency, take stock from last year, any concrete progress made in individual countries around various issues and how can countries cooperate, implement and ensure funding of proposals based on the outcomes of various meetings and conferences that have taken place. for example

- Outcome of the 7th Trilateral Symposium on Sustainable Development Goals: Innovative technologies to promote healthy lives and well-being in Feb 2018 (http://www.who.int/phi/sustainable_development_goals_February2018/en/)
- ITPC organized a Global Summit on Intellectual Property and Access to Medicines in Marrakesh, Jan 2018. More than 100 civil society representatives from around the world discussed experiences and future strategies to increase access to medicines.
- The 1st World Conference on Access to Medical Products and International Laws for Trade and Health in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare of India, the Indian Society of International Law and WHO India, Nov 2017. <http://www.worldsdsg2030.org/programe.aspx>
- A High-Level Meeting on Promoting Policy Coherence on Health Technology Innovation and Access among ARIPO Member States organized by the Government of Malawi. The Panel's report was welcomed in the outcome document agreed by representatives of 15 Member States in November 2017.
- Fiocruz, UNASUR ISAGS and UNDP organized a Regional Meeting on the Use of Competition Law to Promote Affordable Access to Health Technologies in Brazil, December 2017.
- A consultation on the draft National Intellectual Property Policy in South Africa by Department of Trade and Industry of the Republic of South Africa, co-organized with UNCTAD and UNDP in Oct 2017.
- The Ministers of Health of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Chile issued a Declaration on Access to Medicines, Public Health and Intellectual Property calling for the implementation of the Panel's recommendations in June 2017
- Joint Declaration at the WHA side event, 2017 on 'Impact of the recommendations of United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines for the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda' <http://www.partners-popdev.org/wha-may2017/> ; May 2017
- The Health Commission at the Spanish Parliament approved a non-binding Proposal urging the government to work on the Panel's recommendations and to report to the Health Commission on the

steps taken within a period of two years, in September 2017,

- A panel of the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicines released their report titled Making Medicines Affordable: A National Imperative. A number of the report's recommendations including proposals to increase competition and reduce patent evergreening and promote transparency are in alignment with the Panel's recommendations, held in November 2017.

Expected results

- Discussion on the cooperation between countries, exchange of technical support and clarity on the policy guidance needed from WHO working towards universal access to health products by fostering innovation based on public health needs and reinforcing health products selection, use and supply systems.
- Foster WHO's work on promoting equitable access by stimulating research and development for health products to treat diseases that predominantly affect the poor and seeking innovative financing systems to fund the research.
- Concrete examples and way forward to be shared.

Speakers (Expected)

Ministers of Health from countries (priority) Morocco, India; others member states TBC

WHO DG (priority)

WIPO DG (TBD)

WTO DG (TBD)

Other UN organization- TBD

Eminent Academia and collaboration (TBD)

Event details / détails de la réunion

Expected number of participants/Nombre de participants attendus : 150

Exact title of the meeting/Titre exact de la réunion:

Access to Medicines: Overcoming Obstacles created by monopolies- Essential to UHC and the 2030 Agenda

Interpretation/Interprétation

Interpretation may be provided in the official languages and the estimated costs are as follows: 2 languages: 2561 CHF; 3 languages: 5123 CHF; 6 languages: 11953 CHF.

L'interprétation peut être assurée dans les langues officielles aux coûts estimés suivants : 2 langues-2561 CHF; 3 langues : 5123 CHF; 6 langues : 11953 CHF.

Are interpretation services requested? / L'interprétation est-elle requise ? Yes/Oui ☐ No/Non ☐

(If yes, which languages)/(Si oui, en quelle langue)

English/Anglais ☐ French/Français ☐ Russian/Russe ☐ Spanish/Espagnol ☐ Chinese/Chinois ☐ Arabic/Arabe ☐

Other language/autre langue:

Room Layout/Aménagement des salles

Due to type of furniture and technical equipment in the room, the layout of the rooms cannot be changed. For information regarding the location and layout of rooms at the Palais des Nations, please see:

[http://www.unog.ch/80256EE60057CB67/\(httpPages\)/BAE3AF717207A5AF80256EF80049C552?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/80256EE60057CB67/(httpPages)/BAE3AF717207A5AF80256EF80049C552?OpenDocument)

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*Badges/ Badges d'accès

WHA side events are for participants of the WHA and, as such, panellists and participants should be drawn from those participating in the Health Assembly.

Les réunions parallèles sont réservées aux participants de l'Assemblée; Les orateurs de ces réunions doivent donc être choisis

parmi ceux-ci.

Please complete the form and send it to / Merci de remplir le formulaire et de l'envoyer à hggoverningbodies@who.int