

**SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
(RESUMED SESSION-VIRTUAL)
9 – 14 NOVEMBER 2020**

Agenda Item No. : 11.9

Title : Global Strategy on Plan of Action for Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (GSPA-PHI)

Ref. Document : EB146/15 Report on Global Strategy and Plan of Action for public health, innovation and intellectual property (GSPA-PHI)

Intervention Note :

Access to medicines remains a challenge globally due to unaffordable prices and inadequate supply. Urgent efforts should be made to make advances in biomedical science more affordable, accessible and widely available in developing countries. Malaysia is aware that this important issue has been addressed at the the 71st World Health Assembly in May 2018 which adopted the Decision WHA71(9) and the report by the Director General on the overall implementation of the actions and activities foreseen in the GSPA-PHI.

Malaysia supports and acknowledges all of WHO's initiatives as outlined in the Plan of Action to improve access to new and existing quality-assured medicines and health products. These include strengthening national regulatory capacity, regional harmonization and other collaborative initiatives, improving transparency in medicine pricing and promoting research and development according to the needs of developing countries.

During these unprecedented times where timely access to diagnostics, vaccines and treatment of COVID-19 is a priority, we strongly support the move towards linking intellectual property (IP) policies with public health strategies such as promoting transfer of and access to key health-related technologies of relevance to public health needs of developing countries.

Moreover, in anticipating the arrival of a safe, effective and affordable vaccine for COVID-19, Malaysia applauds WHO's efforts in working with the WTO, to identify how the flexibilities available under the TRIPS Agreement can be implemented more effectively in a manner that will not exclude access to low and middle income countries.

In this regard, Malaysia supports the Executive Boards decision on the agenda to reinforce the implementation and recommendations in the plan of action. Furthermore, The 73rd World Health Assembly is also an opportune time and an appropriate platform to reiterate the necessity for member states to further discuss on the progress reported, including the development of the draft implementation plan for 2020-2022, taking into consideration of the pandemic and public health interest.