

Statement of I.R. Iran on
GSP & GAP of public health innovation and intellectual property

I would like to thank the DG and the secretariat for this professional report, which summarizes the progress of implementation of global strategy and action plan (GSPOA). The GSPOA aim to improve access to affordable health products through eight key elements such as prioritizing research needs, supporting research and development, facilitating technology transfer, and managing intellectual property.

We have taken notes of WHO progress in all eight areas. For instance, some milestones are commendable as such: 1) COVID-19 and Technology Access Pool database (C-TAP and TAP) to share information regarding technologies for innovative COVID-19 and other health products (2) the guidance and resources to help countries improve access to health products (3) The WHO review of GSPOA in 2023 concluded to the development of a new implementation plan for 2024-2026.

However, we would like to offer some recommendations to improve GSPOA which could help leverage Iran's capabilities into building capacities as such:

Article 99

- Ten Iranian schools are actively dealing with training and public health services in the area of traditional and complementary medicine in. Based on the acquired experiences, we suggest developing a document on utilizing traditional and complementary medicine for primary prevention of non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases (CVDs). Prioritizing state-of-the-art research studies for finding herbal products to strengthen the immune system could be beneficial for public health as well.

Article 100

- Focusing on technology transfer to build capacity against future pandemics is crucial. Therefore, we suggest establishing high-tech parks for producing mRNA vaccines in the countries having such infrastructures for nearly 100 years beyond those currently targeted in WHO/EMR.

For Article 101

- Unilateral coercive measures have hindered our ability to publish data on long-term post-COVID-19 effects. We urge WHO to make a resolution advocating for the removal of barriers to knowledge sharing and scientific data publication.

Article 103

- Similar to the previous point, sanctions have created obstacles to obtaining international grants. To overcome this challenge, we recommend establishing WHO-based or regional-economic-organization-based consortia with pooled grant program/mechanism supported by various funding bodies. The Iran-TUBITAK grant program on common health problems like antimicrobial resistance serves as a best practice example.

Thank you.

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