



# Addressing the global shortage of, and access to, medicines and vaccines

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Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of UICC

We welcome the report by the secretariat and the concerted efforts undertaken by Member States, the WHO and other key international partners to improve access to essential medicines and vaccines. As recognised within the report, timely access to quality vaccines and medicines, including for palliative care, will be essential to successfully deliver UHC and the WHO's 13<sup>th</sup> GPW. Access forms a core part of the 2017 cancer resolution and Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs, which sets a target for Member States to achieve 80% access to essential medicines and technologies for NCDs.

NCDs are the leading cause of premature mortality globally; cancer alone was responsible for approximately 8.8m cancer deaths and 14.1m new cases in 2015, and this figure is forecast to increase significantly to 21.6m new cases annually by 2030. Access to essential medicines will help to significantly reduce burden of premature mortality from cancer, while the provision of universal access to human papillomavirus (HPV) and Hepatitis B vaccines has the potential to prevent over 1 million cancer deaths.

We are concerned by shortages of the HPV vaccine in a number of countries, we therefore urge:

- WHO to work closely with GAVI, member states and vaccine manufacturers to ensure the availability, affordability and accessibility of HPV vaccine, and its integration into national vaccination schedules in line with the Global Vaccine Action Plan, and the 80% access to essential medicines target.
- Member States to develop their national essential medicine list as a critical tool to analyse, select and prioritise the purchase of medicines and vaccines, for cancer and other NCDs, using national data and the methodology identified within the WHO Model Essential Medicines List, and to collect data on the costs and effective use of medicines nationally.