



# Statement at 71st World Health Assembly Addressing the global shortage of, and access to, medicines and vaccines

## Agenda Item 11.5 - Document A71/12

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of the Union for International Cancer Control.

We welcome the report, and in particular the focus on the need to build strong systems for sustainable access to essential medicines and vaccines. Access to essential medicines, vaccines and technologies is critical for the successful treatment and management of cancers, which are now the second leading cause of mortality globally. However countries are significantly off-track to meet the global target of 80% access to essential medicines and technologies for NCDs, with clear implications for delivering on the 2017 cancer resolution, the SDGs, and the achievement of universal health coverage.

To accelerate progress we urge countries reflect on the recommendations in the report and:

- **Politically prioritise access to essential medicines, vaccines and technologies for cancer within national NCD and UHC plans**, and include the data collection systems required to track costs and effective use of essential medicines and vaccines nationally. It is essential that medicines cancer, other NCDs and palliative care and pain relief are not lost from this process.
- **Leverage support available through the WHO to make the most of cost-effective investments**, utilising national essential medicines lists as a critical tool to analyse and prioritise the purchasing of medicines and vaccines for cancer and other NCDs, based on national disease burden data
- **Work with partners to deliver sustainable access to medicines and vaccines**. Partnerships across sectors are essential to help overcome bottlenecks and ensure availability and effective use of essential medicines and vaccines. We welcome the DG's announcement of a cervical cancer elimination effort and hope to work closely with the WHO to develop this further
- **Not to forget the role of essential technologies in reducing premature mortality from cancer and NCDs.**

UICC stands ready to support Member States in this effort.