



Expanding access to effective treatments for cancer and rare and orphan diseases, including medicines, vaccines, medical devices, diagnostics, assistive products, cell- and gene-based therapies and other health technologies; and improving the transparency of markets for medicines, vaccines, and other health products

### [EB 148/9](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of UICC, supported by NCD Alliance.

We welcome the report and efforts by Member States, WHO and key partners to improve access to essential medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and other health products. The current pandemic has shown the importance of a continued emphasis on building strong and resilient health infrastructure, where this is essential to successfully deliver against the health-related SDGs.

Cancer is the second leading cause of mortality globally. With timely diagnosis and access to appropriate treatment, the global burden can be significantly reduced. We therefore urge Member States to:

- Ensure affordability and availability of quality assured essential medicines and diagnostics, based on national need and using WHO methodologies and guidance.
- Utilise international support to build effective regulatory systems, procurement strategies and policies for transparent and fair pricing, including compliance with TRIPs regulations, use of TRIPs flexibilities and policies to increase access.
- Support policies to increase the uptake of quality assured generics/biosimilars and capacity building for local manufacturers and support efforts to facilitate the transfer of technologies.
- Ensure alignment in national lists for essential medicines, diagnostics and technologies to ensure complementarity.

Urge WHO to

- Expand the prequalification list to include more essential cancer medicines to support increased access and affordability.
- Encourage and support increased awareness of patent databases to build capacity for the proper implementation of intellectual property laws in line with TRIPS and that make use of its flexibilities to improve access.
- Engage organisations like the Medicines Patent Pool to disseminate information on the status of patents and licenses.
- Engage civil society to help strengthen access to essential medicines and vaccines and monitor progress towards these deliverables.