



# Medicines, vaccines and health products – access to medicines and vaccines

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

We welcome the report and efforts by Member States, WHO and key international partners to improve access to essential medicines, vaccines and health products. A consistent emphasis on building strong and resilient health systems, with timely access to quality medicines and technologies will be essential to successfully deliver against the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. We welcomed the opportunity to comment on the draft roadmap as it is an essential tool to support the 2017 cancer resolution, 13th General Programme of Work, and the Global Action Plan for the prevention and control of NCDs.

Cancer is the second leading cause of mortality globally. There were 18.1m cancer cases in 2018 and 9.6m cancer deaths, and these figures are forecasted to increase significantly to 29.5m new cases annually by 2040. However, with timely diagnosis, cancer can be treated successfully. We therefore urge member states to reflect on and implement the roadmap in order to:

- **Ensure the affordability and availability of safe, effective and quality medicines** using the WHO Model list of essential medicines, and with a focus on building effective regulatory systems, procurement strategies and policies for fair pricing.
- **Build capacity for the proper implementation of intellectual property laws in line with TRIPS** and that make use of its flexibilities to improve access.
- **Address the training needs of the health workforce** to strengthen supply chain management and improve data management systems nationally.
- **Engage civil society** to help strengthen access to essential medicines and vaccines, and monitor progress towards these deliverables.

We support a focus on increasing availability of essential medicines at primary care level and urge Member States to extend this to secondary and tertiary level facilities to ensure access to effective treatment for cancer.