

Statement on agenda item 11.5—Addressing the global shortage of, and access to, medicines and vaccines

Delivered May 11, 2018 at the US Department of Health and Human Services World Health Assembly Stakeholder Listening Session

GHTC observes that supporting access to new technologies is complex, and failures to achieve widespread access to health technologies in low-resource settings are rarely due to a single issue. Barriers to access are best overcome when approached holistically, over the long-term, addressing affordability, availability, acceptability, and sustainability.

We encourage the US delegation to support a comprehensive approach to addressing barriers to accessing essential health technologies. There is no single solution to access.

We particularly note the need for stronger regulatory systems and harmonized processes as critical in supporting access and encourage the US to continue pushing WHO to do more in this area.

We hope that the US can help support WHO in better leveraging the expertise and experience of product development partnerships (PDPs) and other innovative structures in securing sustainable access commitments.

PDPs accelerate the development of and access to essential health technologies targeting under-addressed diseases, and these partnerships have experience managing intellectual property, supporting affordability, strengthening local research and regulatory capacity, and managing supply chains.