

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

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Global Health Council in collaboration with AAP, NCD Child, IFPA and Global Health Technologies Coalition supports a comprehensive approach to establish continuous access to quality, affordable medications and vaccines for children, and adults. We commend the WHO for prioritizing essential medicines, including medicines for NCDs.

We encourage WHO to support a comprehensive approach to addressing barriers to accessing essential health technologies, related to medicines, vaccines, and equipment. We encourage WHO to implement strong regulatory systems and harmonized processes to support access to effective medicines. Failures to achieve widespread access to new health technologies in low-resource settings are complex. Barriers are overcome when approached holistically, addressing availability, acceptability, and sustainability.

The challenge of inadequate supply is particularly acute for children, who have unique physiologic and pharmacokinetic requirements that often are not met in products for adults. Children require equitable access to care, including pediatric formulations of essential medicines. All submissions for the Essential Medicines List should include pediatric data as well, which would allow for consideration for the Essential Medicines List for Children. Furthermore, treatment for some NCDs, such as psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis can be life-long, and should be included in national financing strategies to support UHC. WHO Essential Medicines List must include treatment for psoriasis.

WHO can leverage the expertise of innovative structures including product development partnerships and other novel mechanisms to secure sustainable access commitments. This will accelerate the development of essential health technologies for all conditions, including NCDs, NTDs, and palliative care. We support efficient mechanisms to manage intellectual property, strengthen local research and regulatory capacity, and manage supply chains.