



## **G-15 Joint Statement**

To the Seventieth World Health Assembly, Geneva;

22 – 31 May 2017

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), a Group of Developing Countries representing Asia, Africa and Latin which aims to foster mutually beneficial cooperation and collaboration, especially in the sphere of South-South Cooperation.

Mr. President,

2. The Group of Fifteen views the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a plan of action for the ‘people, planet and prosperity’ built on the three pillars of social, economic and environment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Foreign Ministers of the Group have identified the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a key global process for the G-15 to be involved and contribute to its implementation as a niche Group of the Global South.
3. The Group sees the implementation phase of the Agenda as critically important and calls for enhance commitments for focused and action oriented plans that achieve the targeted goals within the SDGs. The Group takes note of the Report on the “Progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” presented to the World Health Assembly (WHA).
4. In this respect the G-15 is committed to enhancing capacities among its member countries through robust South-South cooperation initiatives and also seeks opportunities for collaboration with international organisations, including the WHO. In this regard the G-15 wishes to engage with the WHO to seek opportunities for training and capacity building for its member countries which would offer tangible benefits. This could be done in partnership with other international and intergovernmental organisations.
5. The Group of Fifteen having identified migration and development as one of four key areas of focused cooperation calls for greater engagement in migrant health throughout developing countries. The Group seeks avenues for policy coherence and international partnership for the betterment of health conditions for its migrant population. In this regard, the Group wishes to request that the health dimension of the migration be reflected in the final document of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and calls for WHO’s greater engagement in ensuring that.
6. The Group notes the ambitious target of ending epidemics of AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria while calling for vigilance for threats posed by increasing resistance to Antimicrobial drugs including multi-drug resistant Malaria and HIV. The Group welcomes the adoption of the Political Declaration on Antimicrobial resistance

(A/RES/71/3) following the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly last year, and hopes that the Political commitment would contribute to strengthening antimicrobial stewardship and calls for greater partnership in this regard.

7. The Group re-iterates its view that health R & D should be needs –driven and evidence – based and be guided by the core principles enunciated in the Consultative Expert Working Group (CEWG). The Group extends its support to the WHO Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (GSPOA), and call on that the Strategy also includes implementation means of the recommendations of the Report of the United Nations High Level Panel on Access to Medicine.
8. The Group recognizes the PIP as an important framework for an effective disease surveillance and appropriate response, should be updated to keep abreast with the technological advancement, in particular to include the use and appropriate exchange of genetic sequencing data, for an enhanced disease surveillance.
9. Finally the Group reaffirms its firm conviction of WHO’s leading role in shaping global health policies and in engaging and coordinating global health partners. Our Group further encourages the WHO on its continued commitment to achieve the 2030 Agenda goals.

Thank you.