



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

Distribution: General

G-15 Joint Statement

To the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly, Geneva:

23 – 28 May 2016

‘Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), a Summit Level Group of Developing Countries that aim for mutually beneficial cooperation and collaboration while realizing sustainable development and economic progress.

We have tabled the longer version of this Statement to this Assembly

Mr. President,

2. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is 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 Group appreciates the adoption of the new Development Agenda in September, 2015. 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. As the 2030 Agenda comes into effect this year, setting new global norms for development in the next 15 years, we welcome this timely discussion in this august Assembly. The WHO and health policy makers of our respective governments have an important role in fulfilling the targets related to the 2030 Agenda, in particular goal 3 on health and other interlinked goals.
3. While acknowledging that the primary responsibility of implementation of the ambitious 2030 Agenda lies with the respective governments, it is a fact that most developing and least developed countries will face a greater challenge in operationalizing the agreed commitments, given the national resource constraints. In this context, the global partnerships should be intensified from the MDG era, and in this regard, our Group hopes that the commitments made in the new Development Agenda in mobilizing financial resources and capacity building to developing countries and the reaffirmed commitments by developed countries to achieve Official Development Assistance targets (ODAs) would be operationalized sustainably, in order for developing countries to keep on par with the required progress.
4. The G-15 remains concerned that global health Research and Development (R&D) is currently not being aligned with the fulfilling of priority health requirements of developing countries. The Group invites governments and other stakeholders to partner in this area, in line with target 3.B of the new Development Agenda.
5. The Group remains concerned on increasing prices of potentially life-saving medicines that are critical to public health priorities and call on for renewed international attention

under the new Development Agenda framework, to create urgent international policy space to facilitate equitable access to affordable, quality, safe and efficacious medicines.

6. 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.