



Highlights of the G-15 Joint Statement to the Sixty-Sixth World Health Assembly
Geneva; 20-28 May 2013

1. I have the honour and the great pleasure to deliver the summary of the Joint Statement on behalf of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), a Summit Level Group of Developing Countries comprising 17 member states¹. The fuller statement can be collected at the entrance of the Assembly Hall.
2. The Group has, time and again, emphasized that sound public health, besides being central to the Millennium Development Goals is also fundamental to socio-economic progress. Enthused by notable progress being made in the health sector, we call for united global action as our most befitting collective response to the daunting global health challenges that stare us in the face. We urge the international community to continue its efforts in accelerating the pace of progress on the health-related MDGs to give fillip to global partnerships for a fully inclusive and equitable globalization and transformative, people-centric development. We are also of the view that the present health-related MDGs should remain central to the post-2015 development agenda.
3. We remain deeply concerned that the global burden and threat of non-communicable diseases constitutes one of the major challenges for national and global development. The health and socio-economic toll of non-communicable diseases is already impeding achievement of MDGs and will continue to pose as one of the major development challenges in the 21st century. While noting the progress since the 2011 High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Non Communicable Diseases, the Group welcomes the development, by the WHO, of a Global Action Plan for the prevention and control of NCDs for 2013-2020 and a comprehensive global monitoring framework for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and recommends its adoption at this Assembly.
4. Recognizing the high incidence of communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and their impact on developing countries, the Group reiterates the need for appropriate international policy space to facilitate equitable access to affordable, quality, safe and efficacious medicines, including generics, immunization services, safe vaccines and advanced medical technologies for combating such diseases.
5. Influenza pandemics and the ensuing health emergencies also call for improved mitigation and management capacities, preparedness and timely response. Building stronger partnerships and promoting investments in developing core capacities and multi-sectoral emergency risk-management policies and plans remain crucial.
6. The Group reaffirms its conviction that health is a precondition for an outcome and an indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development as embodied in “The Future We Want” at Rio+20. The Group calls for, inter alia, a coordinated approach to strengthen the capacity of health systems for monitoring and minimizing public health impacts of climate change through adequate preventive measures, preparedness, timely management of natural and human-induced disasters.
7. Last but not the least; the Group would like to record its appreciation for the commitment and tireless efforts of Dr. Chan and expresses its support for the ongoing reforms in the WHO and hopes that it will emerge renewed and stronger to be able to fulfill its constitutional mandate as the Global Health Authority.

¹ Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Zimbabwe