



WHA 69

ITALY

Italy recognizes the seriousness of the shortage and of stock-outs of medicines (and sometimes of vaccines) that challenge the appropriate delivery of care and cure to many patients around the world.

We believe this is a major issue of global interest affecting not random individuals, but rather specific fragile and vulnerable groups, those who are neglected and invisible to the mainstream system, those who cannot afford purchasing medicine and live in misery.

While stock-outs of medicines for chronic conditions are of serious concern, for patients with infectious diseases they may become catastrophic. I am in particular making reference to HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

Broken supply chains, lack or insufficient control by civil society, poor indicators and unsatisfactory emergency response mechanisms are all issues that need additional emphasis in the documents.

We urge the Secretariat to promote global and local alliances of governments, industry, regulators, as well as of civil society organizations and patients' associations to develop monitoring, evaluation and accountability systems, taking into consideration also TRIPS flexibilities and joint procurement schemes. In particular, we request the Secretariat to include tuberculosis in the list of priority conditions that require additional efforts to ensure that all children (and not only) with TB or at risk of TB can access adequate treatment, including preventive treatment.

Italy commends WHO, the TB Alliance and partners, including UNITAID and USAID, for their launch in December 2015, of the first time ever child-friendly TB Fixed-Dose Combinations (FDCs) in the correct doses for children in weight bands 4-25 kg. The next challenge to be addressed includes market barriers and provision of technical assistance to countries working towards registration. Such efforts are crucial as, without rapid uptake of these new formulations, there is the risk that production will stop and that we will be back in the past situation of neglect.

In view of the urgent need for adequately dosed paediatric formulations of all anti-TB medicines, we strongly encourage further substantial investments by Governments, donors and private corporations into a proper and sustained research agenda, focusing on priority issues identified by WHO and scientific entities.

Given the above, Italy is pleased to cosponsor the resolution presented by China, Malaysia, Thailand on access to medicine for pediatric patients.

Thank you Chair.