Ministero della Salute

Il Ministro

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GAB
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To Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Cc Dr Bernhard Schwartländer
Chef de Cabinet

Dr Soumya Swaminathan
Deputy Director-General for Programmes

Dr Mariângela Batista Galvão Simão,
Assistant Director-General for Drug Access,
Vaccines and Pharmaceuticals

Dr Timothy Armstrong, Director,
Department of Governing Bodies

World Health Organization

Dear Director General,

the Minister of Health of the Italian Republic welcomes the reports on documents EB144/17 Medicines, vaccines and health products - Access to medicines and vaccines and EB144/18 Medicines, vaccines and health products - Cancer medicines, discussed during 144 Executive Board.

As the Italian members of the EB stated during the discussion, we acknowledge the efforts of the Secretariat in preparing the WHO Cancer report, a tour-de-force in line with the mandate conferred under resolution WHA70.12. Moreover, we concur with a key policy option outlined by the Secretariat,

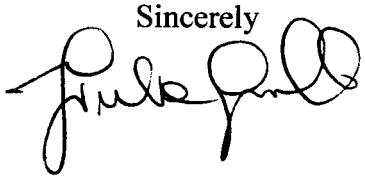
namely that international action is required to improve the transparency in the reporting of prices, R&D costs and production costs of medicines and vaccines, including public sources.

With the aim to provide you, Director General, with an authoritative mandate to strengthen WHOs technical work on the transparency of the costs of research and development and the transparency of prices, we are considering proposing a first draft resolution on "Improving the transparency of markets for drugs, vaccines and other health-related technologies" (see the attachment), to be discussed under agenda item 11.7 - Addressing the global shortage of, and access to, medicines and vaccines, during the 72nd session of the World Health Assembly in May 2019.

This resolution would provide WHO with the mandate to: collect and analyze data on clinical trial outcomes and adverse effects of health technologies; provide a forum for governments to share information on drug prices, revenues, R&D costs, the public sector investments and subsidies for R&D, marketing costs, and other related information; as well as provide crucial information on the landscape of patents on medical technologies, including information about disputes about the validity and/or relevance of asserted patents; and take further actions through meetings and fora designed to continue to make progress in this field.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the positive outcomes of the 144th session of the Executive Board. The Italian delegation to the Board took part actively and with a constructive approach to the works of the Board and is eager to engage with the Secretariat on the topics that will be dealt with in the intra-sessional meetings before the World Health Assembly.

Sincerely



[Attachment 1]