

# Call to the World Health Assembly, to the European Commission, the Council and to the National Governments for a Global Framework on Essential Health Research and Development

Strasbourg, 18 May 2006

In November 2005, Kenya submitted a draft Resolution for discussion at the 117th World Health Organization's Executive Board (WHO EB) meeting in January 2006. The resolution, co-sponsored by Brazil, is entitled "Global framework on essential health research and development". After some negotiation and re-drafting of the text, the EB decided to submit the Kenya/Brazil resolution to the 58th World Health Assembly (WHA) from 21st to 28th May 2006, where it will be further discussed and hopefully adopted.

This proposed resolution stems from the recognition of the paucity of safe, adapted and affordable new medicines developed for infectious diseases like HIV/Aids, malaria and tuberculosis, and the lack of vaccines, drugs and diagnostics for tropical diseases and other pathologies that primarily affect the world's poorest. It also recognises governments' responsibility in making global health and medicines a strategic sector, to respond to medical needs worldwide.

While acknowledging the importance of intellectual property rights mechanisms in stimulating investment in medical R&D, the resolution seeks to encourage and plan a government-driven process to build a new global framework to provide adequate and sustainable levels of financial support for research that is consistent with human rights and public health priorities for medicines in general.

Following the approval of the report on Neglected and Major diseases in June 2005, we ask the European Parliament to support this resolution.

We ask the European Commission, the Council and national Governments to consider supporting Kenya and Brazil in calling for a global framework for essential health research and development at the upcoming World Health Assembly (WHA).

We urge the Commission and the Council to support any other initiative or resolution put forward at the WHA that defines government responsibility in setting health priorities and help achieve the goal of putting in practice a framework for ensuring sustainable health research and development that responds to, and is steered by, health needs, and results in affordable essential health products.

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