

**WHO INTER GOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON PUBLIC HEALTH,
INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

4 DECEMBER 2006

SPEAKING NOTE

Mr Chairman, Member States,

Thank you for allowing me to take the floor on behalf of the European Union. This will be a brief intervention.

Resolution 59.4 establishing this working group recognizes that some WHO Member States have transferred competence over matters governed by this resolution to regional economic integration organizations. This is the case with the European Union (the EU).

The EU can and will play a constructive role in these discussions, since we are:

- a major funder of pharmaceutical and health-oriented research;
- a partner in the European & Developing countries Clinical Trials Partnership; and
- a key actor in international development, through funding and policies to improve medicine affordability and availability to those most in need.

I would just like to clarify how the EU will participate in this working group.

For some matters governed by this resolution, legal competence has been fully transferred from Member States to the EU. For these matters, it is the responsibility of the European Commission to speak on behalf of the EU.

For other matters, where competence remains with EU Member States, the EU Presidency will take the floor.

We welcome the aims for this working group highlighted in Resolution 59.4: setting objectives and priorities for research and development, and estimating funding needs in relation to diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries.

We look forward to working with you. Thank you.