

**Statement by Medicus Mundi International to the Special Session of the WHO Executive Board on the draft thirteenth general programme of work, 22-23 November 2017, agenda item 3**

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the opportunity to address the distinguished members of the Executive Board on behalf of Medicus Mundi International.

*MMI supports the new WHO leadership in a renewed effort to achieve Health for All. We appreciate that public consultations on the GPW13 are being undertaken and expect them to continue. Having submitted our comments, we expect the EBSS to be a space of interaction and debate. However, as a CSO, we can only read a prefabricated 300-word statement. We would have more to say, also reacting to the statements heard from MS.*

*We focus on three points:*

*The draft refers to the need for strengthening WHO's resource mobilization in general terms, but is largely silent on WHO's financial crisis. The MS' chokehold over WHO's finances is the most critical challenge. If the current funding dialogue model is maintained, regardless of what is covered by GPW13, MS and other funders will retain the power to prioritize certain areas of work. We again call for a substantial increase of assessed contributions from MS and expect WHO to be more vocal on enhancing the tax-base for funding national and global public goods.*

*The draft calls for collaboration with "partners from all sectors including the private sector". We receive this embracing of multi-stakeholderism with caution, as it could jeopardize the WHO's most valuable assets: its independence and integrity. WHO needs to remain at arms' length from the commercial sector and its lobby organizations. Proper policies and instruments on dealing with CoI should be established beyond the current FENSA.*

*In times of crises and growing nationalism, WHO should strengthen its legitimacy by protecting, promoting and fulfilling the health rights of people first and foremost. This might even require standing up for health against some MS and actors, in some cases. To make this possible, the governance model of diplomatic consensus might be amended to include democratic voting and more structural involvement of civil society.*

Statement length: 300 words

The statement will be delivered by Sana Contractor

Contact for enquiries: [schwarz@medicusmundi.org](mailto:schwarz@medicusmundi.org), [sana@chsj.org](mailto:sana@chsj.org)