

2 May 2008

## Draft global strategy on public health, innovation and intellectual property

### *The context*

1. In resolution WHA59.24 the Health Assembly recognized the growing burden of diseases and conditions that disproportionately affect developing countries, and particularly women and children. Reducing the very high incidence of communicable diseases in those countries is an overriding priority. At the same time, it is important for WHO Member States and the WHO Secretariat to recognize and better address the increasing prevalence of noncommunicable diseases in those countries. (*consensus*)
2. Currently, 4.8 billion people live in developing countries, representing 80% of the world population. Of this number, 2.7 billion, representing 43% of the world population live on less than US\$ 2 a day. Communicable diseases account for 50% of the developing countries burden of disease. Furthermore, poverty, among other factors, directly affects the acquisition of health products<sup>1</sup> and medical devices, especially in developing countries. (*consensus*)
3. Governments, the pharmaceutical industry, charitable foundations and nongovernmental organizations have taken initiatives in recent years to develop new products against diseases affecting developing countries and to increase access to existing health products and medical devices. However, these initiatives are not sufficient to surmount the challenges of meeting the goal of ensuring access and innovation for needed health products and medical devices. More efforts should be made to avoid suffering and reduce preventable mortality and to meet the health-related Millennium Development Goals [and to implement obligations arising under human rights treaties with provisions relevant to health] / [and to implement health-related provisions contained in the international human rights instruments].
4. [Proposals should be developed for health-needs driven research and development that include a range of incentive mechanisms, including also addressing the linkage between the cost of research and development and the price of medicines, vaccines, diagnostic kits and other health-care products and a method for tailoring the optimal mix of incentives to a particular condition or product with the objective of addressing diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries.] (*consensus pending decision by the USA*)
5. Advances in biomedical science have provided opportunities to develop new, affordable, safe and effective health products and medical devices, particularly those that meet public health needs. Urgent efforts should be made to make these advances more affordable, accessible and widely available in developing countries. (*consensus*)
6. [The CIPIH Report provides an effective analysis of the problems and makes recommendations that form a basis of future actions.]

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<sup>1</sup> The term "health products" hereafter should be understood to include vaccines, diagnostics and medicines in accordance with resolution WHA59.24.

