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For the attention of the members of the GSPA-PHI Expert Review Panel

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The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) appreciates the opportunity to provide inputs to the Expert Review Panel of the overall programme review of the WHO Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (GSPA-PHI). IFPMA represents research-based pharmaceutical companies and national pharmaceutical associations from across the globe. The many women and men they employ worldwide are devoted to inventing, manufacturing and delivering valuable medicines that enable patients to live longer, healthier and more productive lives.

Following on from our participation in a recent open session to provide inputs to the programme review, we would like to share with the Expert Review Panel an advance copy of a report we have commissioned, titled “Charting the course to sustainable innovation in Neglected Diseases globally: an ‘optimization model’ for the use of R&D incentives,” as part of our constructive engagement on the GSPA-PHI programme review. This study expands on previous research we commissioned as inputs to support the work of the CEWG in 2012, which identified several criteria for success of mechanisms aimed at incentivizing R&D into NTDs and Type II diseases. These criteria capture the topline elements that should be present in such mechanisms, including a concrete objective, targeted problem(s) within the R&D process (including access to new medicines), effectiveness and sustainability. The updated research evaluates newly proposed mechanisms against a blueprint for success and proposes a potential model for optimizing the use of the different proposed R&D incentives and mechanisms in tandem with existing market-based incentives such that new R&D synergies are created.

The solutions described in the study are based on current evidence, as IFPMA members are involved in over 100 R&D projects for neglected diseases, of which over 90% are collaborative involving over 50 universities, non-governmental organizations and public and private sector institutes.

We aim to provide more practical examples of industry’s contribution towards GSPA-PHI by the next expert panel review consultation in September. Some of this information is also captured in the IFPMA World Health Partnerships Directory, a database of more than 250 case studies describing partnerships between IFPMA, IFPMA’s member companies and actors across all fields of global health.

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One of the greatest assets of the GSPA-PHI was its ability to deliver a focused vision, addressing situations where market incentives for innovations are absent, while highlighting the need to adopt a holistic approach when addressing overall access to healthcare. Success in the implementation of the GSPA-PHI lies in remaining focused on its original mandate. Based on our experience, we suggest that rather than expanding the initial scope, a set of implementable actions be prioritized to galvanize wider, multi-sectoral support.

Since the adoption of the GSPA-PHI, IFPMA and its members have undertaken a series of activities to implement its relevant provisions in the areas of R&D, capacity building, IP management, and access to healthcare. We will release a report, ahead of the next Executive Board, outlining some of the best practices and lessons learned from the different activities our members undertook within the scope of the GSPA-PHI.

We hope these inputs will be a constructive contribution to this critical debate.

Kind regards,

Thomas B. Cueni
Director General