Priorities at the 70th World Health Assembly

Progress is required for a number of action items. The following are PATH’s positions:

ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL MEDICINES
There is no one-size-fits-all solution to ensure access to health products. Access is a complex issue, and we must take a holistic approach to address challenges related to appropriate design, availability, accessibility, affordability, assured quality, and awareness. This includes drawing upon contributors like PATH across sectors and geographies who have created markets that incentivize taking affordable innovations to scale. (A70/20)

- We support the global strategy and plan-of-action on public health, innovation, and intellectual property. To realize the potential of innovation, we call on the WHA’s Member States to promote health system capacity in low- and middle-income countries, with strengthened global cooperation—including all actors in the public, private, for-profit, and not-for-profit sectors. (A70/21)

- We support the rapid operationalization of the Global Observatory on Health Research and Development, including its full funding. If properly funded, the Observatory would provide critical analyses of health research—an integral tool in navigating the research and development (R&D) landscape—to guide global R&D priorities. (A70/22)

- Improved access to essential medical technologies is vital to reducing the impact of diabetes, hypertension, and other non-communicable diseases. We encourage Member States to support this movement and push for essential technologies to be included in the access dialogue. (A70/27)

IMMUNIZATION
To see a world free from vaccine-preventable diseases, we must sustain financial investments and grow political leadership. As polio disappearsthe associated financial and technical resources, which also support broader health goals, will be in jeopardy—putting the world at risk for outbreaks and resurgence of infectious disease.

- Given the implications reduced resources will have on other programs—including routine immunization and compliance with international health regulations—it is essential that actors working outside of polio programs consider these emerging gaps. We call for accelerated, detailed data gathering and transition planning on a country-by-country basis. (A70/14 & A70/25)

- As we look to close the global immunization gap, we urge the Secretariat to emphasize the pivotal role of strengthening outdated supply chains to deliver vaccines, support better and higher-quality data collection, and more effective data usage with digital health tools, in order to foster a culture of informed decision-making to strengthen equity and coverage. (A70/25)

EPIDEMIC PREPAREDNESS
PATH applauds WHO for highlighting R&D as a core component of addressing epidemic diseases. New tools and improved drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics must be appropriate, available, accessible, and affordable in low-resource settings where outbreaks are likely to occur.

- We urge WHO and Member States to focus on medical countermeasures, platform technologies, and high-quality surveillance systems in preparedness R&D. Member States must continue to make progress by prioritizing investments in and accelerating reform for strong health systems, in order to prevent, detect, and respond. (A70/10)

- Appropriate prescription and use of antibiotics joined with R&D are vital to battling antimicrobial resistance. We call on the Secretariat to support development and execution of country plans to prevent the rise of resistance, and to hold nations accountable to their commitments. (A70/12)

MATERNAL, ADOLESCENT, AND CHILD HEALTH
PATH welcomes the focus on adolescent health in reporting on the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent’s Health. Adolescent girls and women in low-resource settings often do not have access to health products and services that are safe, effective, and designed to meet their unique needs. By focusing on adolescents, we can minimize the cycle of poor development for all women and children. (A70/37)

- We ask WHO and Member States to consider a coherent, holistic package of interventions across the life cycle when developing policies and guidelines.

- As a critical mechanism for the Global Strategy, the Global Financing Facility offers countries an opportunity to mobilize domestic resources for women, newborns, children, and adolescents. We urge Members to include appropriate commodities, system strengthening, and training in domestic financing strategies.
PATH

Leading innovation in global health

PATH envisions a world where innovation ensures that health is within reach for everyone. Photo: PATH/Amynah Janmohamed

WE DARE TO BELIEVE THAT INNOVATION CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

PATH is a leader in global health innovation. For 40 years, we have been saving lives and improving health, especially among women and children. We accelerate innovation across five platforms—vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, devices, and system and service innovations—that harness our entrepreneurial insight, scientific and public health expertise, and passion for health equity. By mobilizing partners around the world, we take innovation to scale. PATH and our partners reach an average of 150 million people each year. Working alongside countries primarily in Africa and Asia to tackle their greatest health needs together, we deliver measurable results that disrupt the cycle of poor health.

OUR COMMITMENT

PATH is driven by an unshakeable commitment to health equity and a bold belief in the power of innovation to improve health and save lives. For 40 years, PATH has been a pioneer in translating bold ideas into breakthrough health solutions, with a focus on child survival, maternal and reproductive health, and infectious diseases.

OUR EXPERTISE

PATH brings innovative solutions to bear wherever they are needed—in the laboratory or the factory, government halls, or communities. We specialize in overcoming the barriers that can keep a bright idea from reaching widespread impact, especially those that arise in the middle of the journey of innovation. This is where promising projects often fail, during steps like testing and refining, gaining approvals, commercializing a product, and introducing new approaches. Through experience, creativity, and tenacity, we accelerate the pace at which innovations are transferred into the hands of the people who need them.

OUR INNOVATION PLATFORMS

PATH takes a multidimensional approach to solving health challenges. Our work spans five platforms, which we deploy strategically for greatest impact:

- Vaccines to give children a healthy start in life.
- Drugs to treat diseases more effectively and at lower cost.
- Diagnostics to detect and track diseases.
- Devices, like household water filters and prefilled, nonreusable syringes.
- System and service innovations to ensure that all these tools reach the people who need them.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

PATH mobilizes cross-sector partnerships that radically extend our reach, making powerful tools and strategies accessible at a massive scale. We start with a country’s needs, partnering with government and civil-society institutions to develop and introduce health solutions that address the country’s highest priorities. Corporations, foundations, social entrepreneurs, individuals, as well as governments and multilateral institutions provide complementary strengths and capabilities.

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