The Entebbe Statement

Call for patients to be recognised as key partners in the African Medicines Agency (AMA)

- Welcoming the commitment made at the meeting of the African Ministers of Health in Luanda, Angola, in April 2014 to launch AMA by the end of 2018, as a vehicle to harmonise the regulatory activities of all African Union Member States;

- Recognising the need for all patients in Africa to have access to safe, effective, quality, affordable and timely medicines that meet internationally-recognised standards, in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 3.8's commitment to "leave no-one behind";

- Recognising the current structural fragmentation of standards and procedures for assessing and authorising medicines in Africa, and the limited resources and capacities of national medicines regulatory authorities, resulting in inefficient regulation, higher medicine costs and therefore unequal, slow and unsafe access for patients;

- Recognising the gap thus far in patient awareness and knowledge of harmonisation in Africa and AMA;

- Recognising some progress but also gaps in AMA's Institutional Framework (of 26 January 2017) and draft Treaty (of 14 May 2017), regarding the long-term vision of how to involve patients in all of AMA's governance structures.

We, IAPO's patient organization members, collaborators and participants of the IAPO African Regional Meeting held in Entebbe, Uganda, 4th - 5th July 2017, call upon the:

i. **AMA Taskforce and Governing Board to recognise patients as key partners in the management structures and development of AMA, making a stronger commitment than that currently present in the AMA Treaty[1]**

ii. **African Union Member States to endorse and ratify the AMA Treaty, recognising patients as key AMA partners;**

iii. **The AMA Governing Board to adopt a legally binding patient engagement framework to ensure patients are meaningfully engaged in its core activities to ensure that AMA is patient-centred.**

[1] For example, 19.3 of the AMA Treaty (May 2017) says the Board may appoint to the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) "as consultants, additional experts from academia, research community, industry and consumer and *patient groups*.' This commitment should be strengthened to *guarantee* the inclusion of patient groups in a specified number of TWGs.