

Political declaration on NCDs and expanding access to effective treatments for cancer and rare and orphan diseases

Agenda item 13.2 and Agenda item 13.3

IAPO welcomes and endorses the Director General's two Consolidated Reports A74/10 Rev1 and A74/9, and the attached addendum.

These reports are timely as WHO Member States are currently planning on jump-starting their stalled progress towards UHC 2030 and restoring their NCD and Rare Diseases health care services that were disrupted by COVID-19.

IAPO emphasis that efforts in building back better health systems must recognise that access to innovative safe, effective, quality-assured, and affordable genomic medicines and Artificial Intelligence enabled medical devices will become a fundamental human right of a patient this century.

Member States must work in solidarity in creating a global health ecosystem that works towards expanding access to effective treatments for cancer and rare and orphan diseases, including genomic medicines, vaccines, medical devices, diagnostics, assistive products, cell- and gene-based therapies and other health technologies.

Today, personalised healthcare (PHC), precision oncology and digital health technologies are transforming many health systems. Early precise diagnosis and treatment of disease through use of genomic science, biotechnology and digital health informatics has ensured we improve patient outcomes and experience and improve health systems' economic efficiency.

In the interest of equity, we also note a high level of unmet needs among patients. Build back better is a great opportunity for Member States to spearhead universal health coverage by strengthening health services in the field of skin diseases in vulnerable groups and LMIC.

Lastly, we endorse the DG's open letter to Heads of State and Government motivating political commitment: 'Building Back Better: Investing in healthy populations and resilient health systems for NCDs and Mental Health to be better prepared for future crises' (Foresight Global Health 2nd Feb 2021)