

**Statement by Medicus Mundi International
to the 130th Session of the Executive Board
on agenda item 5, WHO reform: managerial reform, evaluation, and financing
delivered by Chiara Di Girolamo**

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the opportunity of addressing the distinguished Members of the WHO Executive Board on behalf of Medicus Mundi International and the group of WHO Watchers coordinated by the People's Health Movement that is following the work of the current EB session.

Correct diagnosis leads to right prescription. Therefore an independent evaluation of WHO is essential to inform and guide Member States as regards the direction of reform. However, we note that the **evaluation** is delayed which risks the reform process will not be adequately informed. We call upon Member States to await recommendations of the independent evaluation, before agreeing on the precise trajectory of reforms, and to broaden its scope and follow the advise of the UN joint inspection unit, contained in document EB130/5Add.9.

While the document reveals the problem of earmarked **funding** and a lack of flexible funding, there is no concrete proposal to change the current situation apart from the setting up of the only tangible objective of increasing the predictability of funding by 20% from the current 50% to 70%. It is imperative that Member States work to build sustainable financial mechanisms that ensure adequate untied funding of WHO, which is the only way to guarantee the independence, integrity and public trust in the organisation. It implies creating mechanisms not merely relying on voluntary contributions, but also based on financial obligations as stipulated in article 7 of the Constitution. These obligations include an increase in assessed contributions and the conversion from specified into flexible voluntary contributions for which donors should be fully accountable for.

Finally, we would like to stress that the proposed **pledging conference** should not result in undermining of programmes and priorities, by allowing donors to pick and choose elements of different programmes. We call for the development of clear safeguards, transparency and accountability policies to protect WHO against conflicts of interest and undue influence while receiving funds from non-state entities. We call upon Member States to place such safeguards as part of the resource mobilisation plan contained in document EB130/5Add 5.

Thank you.