

**Statement to the 136th Session of the WHO Executive Board
on agenda item 5.2, Method of work of the governing bodies**

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the opportunity of addressing the distinguished Members of the WHO Executive Board on behalf of Medicus Mundi International.

Our delegation supports the efforts to improve the work of the governing bodies. We welcome mainly the provisions for improved transparency on draft resolutions (par.7) and member states statements (par.9), publishing them in advance on dedicated public websites, such as already done by NGOs. We appreciate the webcasting of the current EB session and look forward to see the same standard implemented for the WHA and hopefully the RC meetings.

But to continue being involved in the political processes, we will undertake all efforts to have our delegation on the spot, contributing with statements to the meetings and organizing side events on key agenda items such as the well-attended WHA events on Code of Practice, WHO reform, NCDs.

Regarding the new proposals for side events (par 12), we expect all of them, either before the WHA or during the week, to lead to a relevant policy dialogue, directly related to the agenda and not just promoting the interests of individual organizations or programs. This would be our “quality” criteria for reducing their number. We are against an open marketplace or stakeholder fair. Particular the idea of a separate side-event day comes with a risk to end up in merely a promotional event. Such a concept might result that active participation is only possible for those who can afford the organizational and travel costs.

We encourage that the secretariat enables active participation of civil society and social movements. Alternatively to the side-event day, we propose that the secretariat organizes public hearings before or during the WHA enabling the participation of those who are subject to the issue at stake.

Secondly, we still expect that NGOs will be allowed an autonomous space to coordinate themselves and organize side-events similar to the meetings of member states delegates.

Thank you.

(= 294 words)

The statement will be delivered by Thomas Schwarz

Contact for enquiries: schwarz@medicusmundi.org, 079 950 52 51