

statement regarding

WHA 69 agenda item 17.F:

Health Technology Assessment

Made by Dr. Iñaki Gutiérrez-Ibarluzea

on behalf of

*Health Technology Assessment international (HTAi)
endorsed by The International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering (IFMBE), HUMATEM,
the IFBLS – International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science and the International
Federation of Hospital Engineering (IFHE).*

STATEMENT:

Dear Ms. Chair, Director General, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Health Technologies (HT), that are according to definition the application of organized knowledge and skills in the form of devices, medicines, vaccines, procedures and systems developed to solve a health problem and improve quality of lives, are critical to ensure Universal Health Coverage.

The reliance of health and social care, and public health programs on health technologies for their planning and implementation has become a “must”. It is therefore essential that health technologies are managed in the most optimal way in their lifecycle from inception to obsolescence, to better contribute to answer context dependent health needs, better address the P4 paradigm: preventive, predictive, personalized and participatory health care, and to confront existing and new global health problems.

HTAi and its partner organizations (EuroScan, INAHTA, REDETSA and HTAsialink) supporting WHA resolution 67.23 and in close relation with WHO regional offices have contributed to the development of HTA initiatives that have helped structuring health and social care in different countries around the world.

It has been demonstrated that a key success factor is a solid strategy emanating from the Ministries for Health and based on the expertise from HTA agencies that consist of multidisciplinary teams including health care professionals, ethicists, sociologists, managers, health economists, biomedical engineers, biomedical laboratory scientist and physicists, social workers, among others and take into account stakeholders opinions (patients, citizens, health managers, payers, policy makers..).

We are calling on representatives of the member states' MoH and on WHO, to structure, plan and implement HTA agencies/units that inform and harmonize the processes of market access, reimbursement, provision and prescription, ensuring the inclusion of safe, effective, efficient and appropriate health technologies in each defined context and according to the best available evidence at the time of decision.

Thank you for your kind attention.