



**The Oslo Medicines Initiative: Better  
access to effective, novel, high-priced  
medicines – a new vision for collaboration  
between the public and private sectors**

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**Consultation with non-State actors:  
nongovernmental organizations and  
philanthropic organizations**

**Virtual meeting**

**26 April 2021, 10:00–13:00 CET**

**30 March 2021  
Original: English**

## **Discussion document**

### **Introduction**

1. WHO/Europe and the Government of Norway, through close collaboration with the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services and the Norwegian Medicines Agency, have jointly launched the Oslo Medicines Initiative (The Initiative). An 18-month programme of work will be undertaken, culminating in a high-level meeting in Oslo in March 2022, after which a new vision for collaboration will be proposed between the public and private sectors for better access to effective, novel, high-priced medicines. This Initiative will build on other access-related initiatives that are being undertaken at a global level by WHO and other United Nations agencies and will collaborate with similar initiatives in other regions. It will advance the implementation of World Health Assembly resolution WHA72.8 on Improving the transparency of markets for medicines, vaccines, and other health products<sup>1</sup>. The accompanying draft Scope and purpose document outlines the Oslo Medicines Initiative in more detail, providing the background, objectives, format, themes, consultation process, and expected outcome.
2. This document provides a set of questions for non-State actors to provide views, and to present evidence and positions on advancing the Oslo Medicines Initiative and how the substantive recommendations contained in resolution WHA72.8 can be taken forward. The discussion and outcomes from the first consultation meeting to be held virtually on 26 April 2021 will form the basis for a second consultation, where non-State actors will be asked to provide views on progress to date on the Initiative and on the development of a joint WHO and Member States draft outcome statement, to be held later in 2021 (date to be decided).

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/329301/A72\\_R8-en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/329301/A72_R8-en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y).

## Objectives of the Oslo Medicines Initiative

### 3. The objectives of the Initiative are to:

- a) reflect on the state of the market for effective, novel, high-priced medicines in Europe from diverse stakeholder perspectives;
- b) discuss key issues that are impacting access to effective, novel, high-priced medicines and potential steps to address these in the context of the European Programme of Work, 2020–2025;
- c) exchange experiences on voluntary multi-country/area collaborations as a mechanism to enable collaboration;
- d) continue the dialogue and allow the exchange of experiences to advance the implementation of World Health Assembly resolution WHA72.8 on transparency;
- e) share successful initiatives undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- f) discuss the main components for action as well as principles and process to enable a new vision for collaboration;
- g) discuss potential future actions to address collaboration challenges; and
- h) to issue a joint WHO and Member States outcome statement

## Themes

4. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the European Programme of Work, 2020–2025, the Oslo Medicines Initiative will ensure a strong focus on equity and leaving no one behind. Access to effective, novel, high-priced medicines will be looked at through the lens of the three themes listed below, reflecting on the innovative collaborations between the Member States and areas and the private sector to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **SOLIDARITY** – achieving greater solidarity between stakeholders to meet the SDGs and improve access for patients in the WHO European Region.
- **TRANSPARENCY** – understanding how transparency can be used to build trust and support access.
- **SUSTAINABILITY** – considering how to ensure a sustainable industry and health care systems.

## Questions for consideration by non-State actors, to facilitate exchange of views and positions:

### 5. Scope and purpose of the Oslo Medicines Initiative

- a) Do non-State actors have any comments on the draft Scope and purpose document for the Oslo Medicines Initiative?

### 6. Issues affecting access to effective, novel, high-priced medicines, and health products, and potential solutions

- a) What do non-State actors see as the major issues affecting access to effective, novel, high-priced medicines?
- b) What promising actions are non-State actors undertaking or advocating to improve access? Examples could include price negotiation, public-private partnerships, novel financing mechanisms, price volume arrangements, risk-sharing, and advance purchase arrangements.
- c) How can WHO/Europe collaborate with non-State actors in their efforts to provide access to the population to effective, novel, high-priced medicines?

## **7. SOLIDARITY**

- a) How can existing mechanisms for cooperation and coordination between Member States and areas be strengthened, including joint horizon scanning, procurement and assessments?
- b) How can WHO/Europe continue to support active and meaningful dialogue between stakeholders?

## **8. TRANSPARENCY**

- a) What actions can Member States and areas and non-State actors take to further strengthen the implementation of World Health Assembly resolution WHA72.8?
- b) How can WHO/Europe support the implementation of World Health Assembly resolution WHA72.8?

## **9. SUSTAINABILITY**

- a) How can WHO/Europe contribute to reconciling sustainable pharmaceutical policies and procurement practices with sustainable industry and innovation?
- b) How can non-State actors contribute to sustainability for both health systems and the pharmaceutical industry?