Background:

The World Health Organization (WHO) is currently in the process of developing a guideline on national policies for ensuring access and safe use of controlled medicines. As part of such process, scoping is an important stage of guideline development, as it establishes the focus for the guideline’s recommendations (i.e., what the guideline will and will not include) as well as the key questions that will govern the search for evidence to inform such recommendations.

The scope of the Guideline, as suggested by WHO’s guideline steering group, is available here.

Purpose of the public hearing:

WHO would like to give an opportunity to relevant interested stakeholders to express their views on the proposed scope of the WHO Guideline on national policies for ensuring access and safe use of controlled medicines. To this end, WHO will hold a public hearing via videoconference.

Date and Time of the public hearing:

The public hearing will be held on 19 February 2020 at 14:00 Geneva local time. The public hearing is expected to last up to 2 hours. However, this duration could vary depending on number of participants.

Who can participate in the public hearing?

WHO Member States, governmental and non-governmental organizations, research and academic institutions, philanthropic foundations, private sector entities who have an interest or stake in controlled medicines policies (each, a “Stakeholder”), and who wish to present a view on the scope of guideline, are invited to participate in the public hearing.

How to participate?

In order to indicate your interest to participate in the public hearing, please register online by 23:59 Geneva local time Tuesday 11th February 2020 here. When you
register, you will be required to provide details related to your full name, the name of the entity you represent, your title or position in the entity, country of residence, and email.

The public hearing will take place via videoconference. Registrants may participate in one of the following ways:

1) By submitting a written comment regarding the key questions contained in the scope (max. 200 words)
2) By delivering an oral comment regarding the key questions contained in the scope (max. 2 minutes)
3) By observing the session

Please note that only written comments will be considered by the Guideline Development Group.

Registrations received by the deadline will be screened by WHO. Stakeholders who are invited to participate in the public hearing will be provided, via email by the WHO Secretariat, with further details and instructions on participation by Monday 17 February 2020. Further instructions on the format of written comments will also be sent at that time.