

Statement on agenda item 8.5—Follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination

Delivered January 27, 2017 at the 140th session of the World Health Organization Executive Board

Chairperson, Honorable Ministers, distinguished delegates, and colleagues,

Global Health Council (GHC) would like to take this opportunity to highlight several points for your consideration regarding agenda item 8.5, Follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination. Our statement is supported by the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC).

GHC and GHTC members have decades of real-world experience in the development, scale-up, and delivery of a range of lifesaving technologies, including vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, and devices. As organizations that have been working to develop innovative global health solutions we applaud the work of those involved with the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development. We are optimistic about the progress toward operationalizing the Global Observatory on Health Research and Development and respectfully encourage member states to fully fund the observatory. If adequately supported, its mission to provide critical data and evidence to guide global research and development (R&D) priorities has great potential to unblock inefficiencies in the R&D landscape. Together, our organizations also support ongoing efforts to develop new sources of funding. We are also encouraged to see the commitment to operating the proposed fund transparently and on the basis of sound science and public health. One key element of this will be clear funding and fundraising mechanisms that shield decisions from undue influence.

As organizations with long histories of working to support access to medicines, we are glad to see the commitment to the core principles of affordability and sustainability in the proposals for the pooled fund. Finally, we recommend that global health stakeholders representing diverse sectors, geographies, and expertise be consulted as this process moves forward.