

**Collective statement - Closing session of the 4th WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices
Visakhapatnam, India, December 2018**

As NGOs, partners and delegates,

We would like to acknowledge the government of India for hosting us and especially we want to thank Adriana Velazquez and her very small team for having successfully organized this 4th Global Forum on Medical Devices (4GFMD) held this week in Visakhapatnam, India.

Despite the constraints of time, human resources that we all know about, and unforeseen events that popped up here and there, this has been a highly successful forum and it demonstrates the kind of global credibility that Adriana and her role commands.

Thanks to her pugnacity, enthusiasm, patience and unwavering dedication, we are all here today and we start to feel the awareness regarding all aspects linked to the life cycle of medical devices which are essential to ensure the quality of care and of course the users and patients' safety. Just to remember a few of them: regulation, innovation, procurement, adequate use, maintenance, human resources, training, and decommissioning. Many new (but not unknown) topics have also been added to this list, and they all require deep and further attention, like Nomenclature, implementation of Essential in vitro Diagnostic List (EDL), donations, mHealth, eHealth and so on.

Everybody knows that the development of biomedical professionals is the key element that underlies all the above and Adriana has already been recognized for the tremendous work done on this subject over the past couple of years.

All the above have become a huge task to lead and follow up at WHO.

For that reason, those of us who are here today are calling all stakeholders, starting by the authorities from all member states to WHO itself and all supporting partners to urgently allocate the needed additional organizational, financial and human resources to face these challenges in a continuous and effective way.

This path will be the only one that will allow us to move from the perceived awareness to the more concrete outcomes that the beneficiaries are expecting.

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Vikas Meka, Global Health Innovation Consultant

Jessica Jones, Gates Foundation

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