

IAPO Intervention

Agenda Item 9.3 Access to medicines

Dr. Ratna Devi IAPO Chair Board of Trustees (Member South East Region)

The International Alliance of patients Organizations (IAPO) is a non-State actor in official relationship with the WHO and an international alliance with over 270 patients' organisation members in over 70 countries. IAPO is representing one of the most vulnerable groups in our society.

IAPO welcomed the WHO Director General's speech at the 73rd World Health Assembly and endorsed the WHA Resolution 73.1. The resolution is a great call for Member States in the WHO South East Asia Region (WHO SEAR) to act in national unity and regional solidarity and start investing in access to medicines, bedrock for health system recovery. Health is an investment and a prerequisite for development in the region.

IAPO also endorsed the United Nations General Assembly Omnibus Resolution on the COVID-19 Pandemic and call on Member States to join in regional programmes to Recover Together. Building on the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, we urge WHO SEAR Member States, international organizations, philanthropies, civil society, and the private sector to develop a plan of action for manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines and therapies at a scale require for universal access, and for distributing COVID-19 vaccines and therapies globally, equitably, based on need, and free at the point of use.

To enable regional equitably needs-based distribution of medical supplies and resources, we encourage WHO SEAR to develop clear guidelines on equitable, needs-based distribution. To help operationalize these guidelines, WHO SEAR should develop a platform for disseminating real-time information, including on what is available in each country, what is needed, and what is in the pipeline. The platform and guidelines could be the basis of enabling equitable, needs-based distribution.

WHO should also encourage member states and guide them to develop robust monitoring mechanisms to ensure the highest quality of vaccines and suitable data collection tools to understand and evaluate the adverse events (if any) of these vaccines.

Thank you for your attention.