

***Delegation from
The Republic of Iceland***

***Represented by
École d'éducation internationale de Laval***

Position paper for the World Health Organization

The Republic of Iceland is thrilled to be a part of this year's World Health Organization (WHO) session. We would like to thank the committee for choosing important topics. The topics are: Non-Communicable diseases, Global Pharmaceutical Development and Universal Access to Medication and Gender Based Inequities in Global Health. Iceland believes finding a solution to these matters will help us accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). We invite all Member States to join us in finding solutions that will change the world.

I. Non-Communicable diseases

The Republic of Iceland believes that Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) are a threat to every country and should be treated with out-most importance. Iceland considers NCDs as a threat in achieving the healthy world we desire. As a matter of fact, according to WHO, NCDs cause 70% of deaths worldwide. The Republic of Iceland has signed the resolution A/RES/65/238 that encourages the prevention and control of NCDs. Also, Iceland supports the Global Action Plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2013-2020, The Providing for Health Initiative (P4H) a partnership fighting for the financing of the health systems, and Best Buy Interventions created to help countries to find solutions to NCD care. Iceland signed the treaties and has agreed to use the Best Buy interventions which are a cost efficient way of fighting NCDs. The Republic of Iceland reminds all Member States that Non-Communicable Diseases are a threat to all countries and should be treated with care and urgency. Iceland notes that not every country has the financial capacity to treat and research on NCD's, that is why we are proposing two solutions. Firstly, we strongly suggest that countries apply the best buy interventions because they are simple ideas to prevent and educate people on the risks of NCDs. Secondly, Iceland believes that if we raise awareness about NCDs, we could go a long way. This solution could be reached by social media and sensitisation campaigns which would be a low cost solution to NCDs. The good health and well-being is one of our sustainable goals. Let us unite to reduce premature mortality caused by Non-Communicable Diseases by 2030.

II. Global Pharmaceutical Development and Universal Access to Medication

The Republic of Iceland believes that medication should be accessible all around the world. We believe that global pharmaceutical development is important and should keep growing as the development of the pharmaceutical market creates employment and permits the access to the right medication that can save countless lives. Iceland is using an external reference for pricing medication. (Health Action International (HIA), 2008). Therefore, The Republic of Iceland believes that pricing shouldn't be left in the hands of one country. Pricing should be decided by the WHO. Iceland agrees with the Alma Ata Declaration that states that everyone should be permitted treatment and medicines. The good health and well-being of the world is our third Sustainable Development Goals. The Republic of Iceland notes that a lot of countries have little to no access to affordable medicine. That is why we must find solutions to this problem and work together. Firstly, Iceland suggests that we apply a pricing strategy on medicines. The pricing would be adjusted to every country's income based on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and population. Keeping in mind the past attempts at this pricing policy, we should be able to come forward with a new and more effective way of providing vital medicines at the right price. Secondly, Iceland suggests expansion on the generic side of medication. Generic medication is a cheaper option for countries who cannot afford brand names medication. According to the WHO, medicines account for 25% to 70% of total health care dispenses in low and middle income countries. Using generic medication could therefore lower the percentage of money spent in this field. The effects of these generic options are sometimes unknown. We believe that by testing these products we can offer safe and cheaper medication to the Low-income countries.

III. Gender Based Inequities in Global Health

The Republic of Iceland strongly believes that gender based inequalities in global health are unacceptable. Women are more affected than men regarding HIV/AIDS. (UN Women, 2016). The Republic of Iceland is known as the country where there is the most gender equality in the world according to the 2015 Global Gender Gap Report. Iceland has applied a patient's right act according to gender equality (Act NO. 74/1997). As a member of WHO, Iceland supports the Safe Motherhood Initiative in 1987. We also support Australia who has been the first country to have a National Male Health Policy (Background guide SSUNS WHO 2016). We hope to follow in your footsteps to

achieve greater gender based equality. The Republic of Iceland reminds you that male inequities in treatment are as important as female's. There is a lack of attention on the male's health and safety as well as female's. We believe in a stronger system and treatments for the world. We have solutions that could help countries to finally act against gender based inequity. Firstly, Iceland believes that by creating an International Male Health Policy we could make a change. There is a lack of founding and awareness in the male and female health care systems. Research on both these. We are not saying to focus only on males. The females would get an International Female Health Policy. The key is to understand the struggles and impacts of our actions. Secondly, Iceland believes that by increasing awareness of such inequities, there would be none. It would keep everyone alert and ready to help and change their ways. Using social media and advertisement campaigns worldwide would increase awareness. The campaigns could be funded by the WHO. Gender Equality is the fifth of our SDGs, let all Member States work together to achieve our Sustainable Development Goals.

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