

African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation and links with GSPOA

Director: Public Health Innovation and Intellectual
Property
MP Matsoso
World Health Organization, Switzerland

matsosom@who.int

www.who.int/phi



Summary

- Background
- Opportunities
- Global Strategy and plan of action
- Elements of global strategy and plan of action
- ANDI
- Conclusion



Background: The past decade

- International debate on relationship between intellectual property rights, innovation and public health,
- Measures to fight poverty and improve access to health care.
- More efforts to avoid suffering, reduce preventable mortality and to meet the health-related Millennium Development Goals
- Recognition of the growing burden of diseases and conditions that disproportionately affect developing countries, in particular women and children.
- The need to reduce the very high incidence of communicable diseases

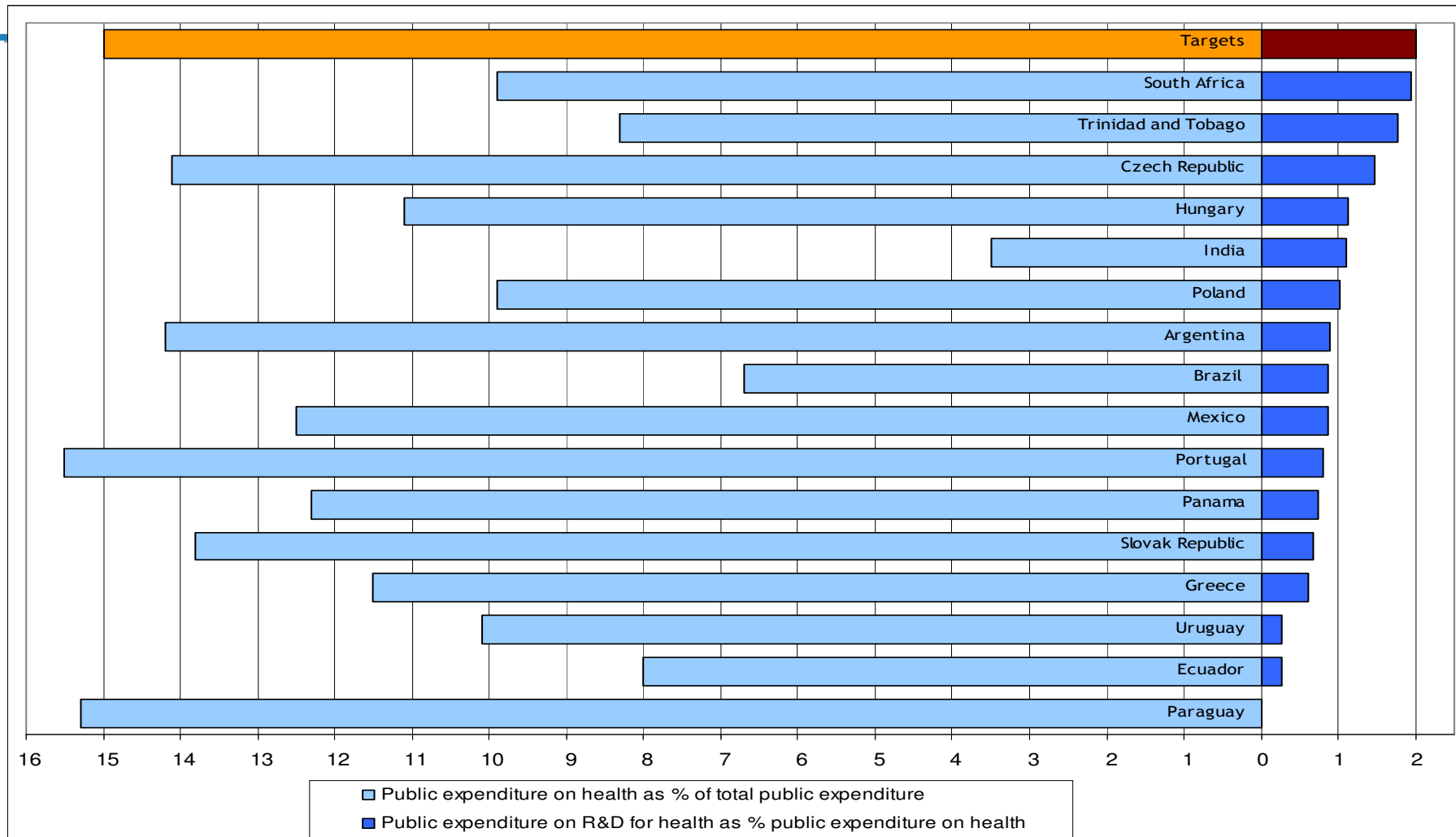


Background: Diseases of poor populations previously neglected

- Access to medicines for diseases of the poor is far from satisfactory in most of the developing world
- The few medicines that exist for tropical diseases affecting the poor are
 - inadequate
 - ineffective
 - sometimes more toxic than the disease they are supposed to cure
- The R&D and manufacturing systems and capacities in affected countries is limited



Public investment in health as a % of GDP and in health R&D as a % of public investments in health, 2005



Opportunities to respond

- Innovation plays an essential role in addressing the health care needs of populations around the world.
- There is a need to pursue the development of effective and affordable innovations
- The key question is how to reconcile public interest in accessing new knowledge and products, with public interest in stimulating inventions that produces the new knowledge and products?



Opportunities to respond

- How can IP systems contribute to development and reduction of poverty?
- How can the development of an indigenous scientific and technological capacity be enhanced particularly in developing countries?
- How can national systems of innovation be effectively promoted?
- How can the creation of user-friendly databases be facilitated which will allow researchers access and easy identification of relevant patents in their field of interest?



The global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property

- WHO Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health established 2004.
- WHO Commission's report was published in April 2006.
- The World Health Assembly in May 2006 adopted resolution WHA59.24 requesting the DG to establish an Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG).
- IGWG to draw up a global strategy and plan of action that aims at, inter alia, securing an enhanced and sustainable basis for needs-driven, essential health research and development relevant to diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries.
- Global Strategy and Plan of Action adopted & Resolution WHA61.21 passed



The global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property

May 2008, Resolution WHA61.21

The global strategy is designed to promote innovation, build capacity, improve access and mobilize resources. The elements of the plan of action:

- *prioritizing research and development needs;*
- *promoting research and development;*
- *building and improving innovative capacity;*
- *transfer of technology;*
- *application and management of intellectual property;*
- *improving delivery and access;*
- *ensuring sustainable financing mechanisms;*
- *establishing monitoring and reporting systems.*



The global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property

- Landmark resolution
- Focuses on the relationship between intellectual property rights, innovation and public health
- Simultaneously addresses the issues of innovation and access
- Recognises need for mobilisation of resources
- Identifies stakeholders for carrying forward specific actions
- promotes acceleration of technology transfer between developed and developing countries as well as among developing countries



Global Strategy and Plan of Action

- An opportunity for a collective response to meet public health needs.
- Mechanism by which urgent efforts can be made to make technological advances more affordable, accessible and widely available in developing countries.
- Means by which technological innovation can be fostered and capacity strengthened



Global Strategy and Plan of Action

- It is aimed at promoting new thinking on innovation and access to medicines,
- A means of providing a medium-term framework for securing an enhanced and sustainable basis for needs driven essential health research and development relevant to diseases which disproportionately affect developing countries,
- A way of proposing clear objectives and priorities for R&D, and estimating funding needs in this area.



Element 2: Actions to promote research and development

- (2.1) support governments to develop or improve national health research programmes and establish, where appropriate, **strategic research networks** to facilitate better coordination of stakeholders in this area
- (a) ***promote cooperation** between private and public sectors on research and development*
 - (b) *provide support for national health research programmes in developing countries through political action and, where feasible and appropriate, **long-term funding***
 - (c) *support governments in **establishing health-related innovation** in developing countries.*



Element 2: Actions to promote research and development

(2.2) promote upstream research and product development in developing countries

(a) **support discovery science**, including where feasible and appropriate, voluntary open-source methods, in order to develop a sustainable portfolio of new products

(b) **promote and improve accessibility to compound libraries** through voluntary means, provide technical support to developing countries and promote access to drug leads identified through the screening of compound libraries



Element 2: Actions to promote research and development

(2.3) improving cooperation, participation and coordination of health and biomedical research and development

(a) stimulate and improve global cooperation and coordination in research and development, in order to optimize resources

(b) enhance existing fora and examine the need for new mechanisms, in order to improve the coordination and sharing of information on research and development activities

(d) support active participation of developing countries in building technological capacity

(e) promote the active participation of developing countries in the innovation process.



Element 2: Actions to promote research and development

- (2.4) Promoting greater access to knowledge and technology relevant to meet public health needs of developing countries
- (a) promote the creation and development of accessible public health libraries in order to enhance availability and use of relevant publications by universities, institutes and technical centers, especially in developing countries
 - (b) **promote public access to the results of government funded research**, by strongly encouraging that all investigators funded by governments submit to an open access database an electronic version of their final, peer-reviewed manuscripts



Element 3: Building and improving innovative capacity

- There is a need to frame and develop and support effective policies that promote the development of capacities in developing countries related to health innovation.
- Key areas for investment are capacities relating to science and technology, local production of pharmaceuticals, clinical trials, regulation, intellectual property and traditional medicine. (paragraph 31)



Element 4: Transfer of technology

- 4.1 promoting transfer of technology and the production of health products in developing countries
- 4.2 supporting improved collaboration and coordination of technology transfer for health products, bearing in mind different levels of development
- 4.3 developing possible new mechanisms to promote transfer of and access to key health-related technologies



ANDI Potential scope of work

- ANDI is a new international facility aimed at increasing the effectiveness and equity of science- and technology-enabled innovation
- It is a framework for coordination and prioritisation of R&D
- Presents opportunity for collaboration: North-South, South-South, Public-Private
- Promotes alignment of African research and traditional knowledge with local health priorities
- Recognises the need for management of IP



Conclusion: ANDI and the Implementation of GSPOA

- This initiative is opportune and an important step towards the implementation of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action
- Networks are key for the implementation of the strategy
- Some activities require collaborative efforts between different stakeholders including governments
- Creation of decentralised regional hubs is a pragmatic approach
- Links with other regional efforts of harmonisation of medicine regulation



Thank you!

