



IAP RECOMMENDATION FOR GOVERNMENTS AND PARLIAMENTS

The pharmaceutical industry and equitable access to medicines

To ensure equitable, affordable access to quality essential medicines and related health products for all women, children and adolescents, governments and parliaments should strengthen policies and regulation governing the pharmaceutical industry.

Strengthening the accountability of the pharmaceutical industry as a whole to align it with public health should involve a mix of effective self-regulation by pharmaceutical companies in compliance with policies, laws and robust internal codes of conduct and strictly enforced government and legal regulations, alongside policies that offer incentives for companies.

KEY MEASURES FOR GOVERNMENTS

Ministries of health and public regulatory and procurement agencies should strengthen the policies and regulations governing the pharmaceutical industry and other actors involved in delivering medicines, in collaboration with ministries of finance and trade, among others.

- **Undertake national assessments and reviews of progress in ensuring access to essential medicines for women, children and adolescents.** Pharmaceutical companies should report on their efforts to facilitate equitable, affordable access to essential medicines; they should ensure public transparency regarding their policies and their implementation (including pricing), and their lines of accountability.
- **Set standards and minimal requirements to regulate pharmacies and drug retail outlets.**
- **Ensure adherence to standards and transparency in procurement processes; set clear contractual stipulations when negotiating public-private partnerships (PPPs) with pharmaceutical companies.**
- **Make full use of TRIPS flexibilities in trade and investment negotiations.** Undertake and make publicly available health and human rights impact assessments.

KEY MEASURES FOR PARLIAMENTS

Parliamentarians should strengthen legislation and oversight to ensure that public and private actors involved in the provision of essential medicines are aligned with rights-to-health and fair-pricing principles.

- Require transparency on costs across the research and development, production, distribution and marketing of medicines and treatments.
- Ensure strict standards and enforce patent legislation from a public health needs perspective.
- Require pharmaceutical companies to make clinical trial data publicly accessible.
- Leverage financial and other incentives for pharmaceutical companies to invest in research and development aligned with public health priorities.
- Set standards of conduct for managing conflicts of interest.
- Standardize the prices of medicines, including by establishing price controls and caps for out-of-pocket expenses; ensure public awareness of price ceilings and of reimbursements for out-of-pocket costs.

Reference

Independent Accountability Panel. **Private Sector: Who is Accountable?** woman's, children's, and adolescents' health. 2018. www.iapewec.org/reports/2018report.

ABOUT THE IAP

The Independent Accountability Panel for Every Woman, Every Child, Every Adolescent (IAP) is appointed by the UN Secretary-General. It is composed of an internationally-recognized group of experts in health and human rights, who serve in their individual capacities. The IAP's main functions are to:

- Independently review progress and accountabilities towards achieving the EWEC Global Strategy objectives aligned with Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3; and provide actionable recommendations
- Disseminate IAP reviews and recommendations to support country action and impact
- Promote accountability principles and advocate for remedy and action.

The IAP is the only independent accountability mechanism established under the SDGs so far. The panel recommends the development of an integrated accountability mechanism under UHC, addressing non-communicable and communicable diseases, emergencies and other SDG 3 issues. It should prioritize accountability for the health of women, children and adolescents, and others left furthest behind.