

Global Charter for the Advancement of Equitable Biomedical Research and Development

Biomedical research should be driven by people's health needs and underpinned by the universal right of all human beings to the highest attainable standard of health. The Global Charter for the Advancement of Equitable Biomedical Research and Development aims to build consensus on the key principles and practices needed to achieve a more just and equitable approach to R&D. It builds on previous work done by numerous international agencies, expert committees, civil society groups and academia, including the WHO Consultative Expert Working Group on R&D (CEWG) and the UN High Level Panel on Access to Medicines. Universities and publicly funded research institutions can and must lead this change.

Agreeing that:

- We must prioritize the health and wellbeing of people over the drive for profits, and support policies and models of funding that incentivize research to most directly benefit the public;
- Today's profit-centered model of biomedical R&D has proven ill-suited to address the health needs of all people worldwide;
- To maximize the health impact of biomedical R&D, we need a new approach to R&D that delivers genuine innovation that is accessible and affordable for all, and that is governed by equitable principles and practices;

We hereby affirm that an equitable global approach to biomedical R&D should apply the following principles and practices:

- **Needs-driven:** R&D should be people-centered, tackle unmet health needs and strike a balance between addressing short term priorities, such as health emergencies, and long term needs, as indicated by the global disease burden.
- **Evidence-based:** all biomedical research should aim to build on existing knowledge and avoid duplication. Innovation that is truly novel and offers therapeutic benefit over existing treatments must be incentivised.
- **Openness, transparency and effectiveness:** achieving efficient and accessible innovation requires transparency and a culture of collaboration and openness, without legal or contractual restrictions to sharing data, study protocols, and results. Investments and costs associated with the R&D process should be laid open, and there should be transparency regarding the pricing of products.
- **Affordability and equity:** all products of biomedical R&D should be made available and accessible to the public at affordable prices.
- **Delinkage:** The uncoupling of R&D incentives and costs from the price of resulting health technologies, a necessary practice to achieve the points above.
- **R&D as a globally shared responsibility:** Today's health challenges cannot be tackled in silos and require global collaboration and binding commitments of all countries.

By signing this Global Charter for the Advancement of Equitable Biomedical R&D, we affirm

- our support for policies and models of funding that incentivize research to maximise public benefit abiding by the principles and practices outlined above.
- our agreement that compliance with these principles should be required for the granting and receipt of public money.
- our support for a global agreement for biomedical R&D that is coherent with this set of principles and practices.
- our commitment to a people-centred, needs-driven approach to biomedical R&D.

SIGNATURE