

Statement to the 150th session of the Executive Board of the
World Health Organization, 24 to 29 January, 2022
on agenda items

14. Standardization of medical devices nomenclature

This statement is supported by the People's Health Movement.

A standardized nomenclature can strengthen regulation, management and access to medical devices. Worryingly, the mapping revealed no universal standards or appropriate solution for this nomenclature. We are concerned that the lack of a new nomenclature will compromise access and affordability of medical devices and favour corporate interests.

We call upon the EB to revisit the decision not to go ahead with the nomenclature and direct WHO to continue its work with the objective to promote equitable access to quality-assured medical devices, particularly in resource-poor settings. Consultations with the medical device industry, if any, should serve public health interests, not market monopolies and profits.

The pandemic has shown the relevance of innovation based on public health principles. We support the extension of GSPOA. Adequate resource allocation and prioritisation is required to accelerate results.