

**COHRED STATEMENT – OPEN ENDED MEMBER STATES MEETING
26 November 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

I would first like to congratulate you on your election as Chair of this meeting of Member States, and wish both you and those present a focused and productive couple of days.

Today, I not only represent the views of my organization, the Council on Health Research for Development, but also the views of over 40 organisations from more than 20 countries who signed on to the call to action that we have been co-ordinating.

I would love to list all these organisations by name, but with limited time, I would instead direct you to cohred.org/cewgcall. I will supply the full list to the secretariat, with this statement. The organisations include Universities, Ministries of Health, research groups, non-governmental organisations, public private partnerships and other networks.

First then. We would stress that the focus of this week's meeting should be on outcomes, rather than rhetoric. Implementable outcomes that can support research and development financing, monitoring and co-ordination. With this in mind, we would like to emphasise two elements for Member States to consider: -

On financing: We endorse the recommendation of the CEWG for a global convention for research and development financing. We believe that the proposed convention has the potential to properly, and more predictably bring joint responsibility to all nations for financing the development of needed health technologies. Further, we believe it can support the pathway to sustainable development by enhancing the innovative capacity of developing countries.

On monitoring and co-ordination of health research financing: We support the CEWG's recommendation for more effective global monitoring and co-ordination through an observatory. We agree that there is a role for a global focal point for collating information about the burden of disease, the landscape of investment, understanding where gaps, sharing lessons, and playing a role in influencing the allocation of resources,

However, it is clear to us that co-ordination must also mean better alignment of health research resourcing with national health research agendas in country. It can't simply be a global, top-down, process – particularly when in many country cases the data on financing does not exist. Therefore, enhanced monitoring must also come from the 'bottom-up'.

We think a concrete, important first step which can be taken is to support developing country research management processes, allowing better monitoring of resource flows within specific country research institutions, feeding in to country focal points. This would help provide lower income countries with the evidence, and thus the political power, to decide whether resourcing in their countries accords appropriately with identified research priorities. This approach could provide a positive impact by providing direct assistance to country institutions involved in research management processes. These individual institutions would be the first to feel the benefit, then later countries. Ultimately of course this information gathered at the country level could then inform and support global processes.

To close: We urge Member States to seriously and boldly engage with the recommendations of the CEWG report this week. This meeting represents a chance to begin to develop plans to address the on-going iniquities that exist in global health research financing.

Thank you.