

146th session of the WHO Executive Board

DNDi statement on Agenda Item 13: **Neglected tropical diseases**

DNDi welcomes the development of the NTD Roadmap, key to guide progress towards the SDG target of eliminating NTDs as a public health threat by 2030.

We particularly welcome the inclusion of all 20 diseases on the WHO NTD list, including those for which there are few or no adequate tools to test and treat. These present a distinct challenge, but one which can be tackled by advancing an innovation agenda, which includes new medical tools, advocacy, and new financing strategies for sustainable access.

It is critical that Member States who share the burden of NTDs fully exploit their individual and collective innovation potential and maximize the impact of multilateral support.

Collaborative, open and integrated approaches to R&D – by and with affected communities – are a proven pathway for accelerating innovation and improving outcomes for patients. Developing new, context-sensitive tools to diagnose and treat NTDs and ensuring their integration into the essential package of care in affected countries is a prerequisite for strengthening health systems and delivering quality universal health coverage that leaves no one behind.