

**Permanent Mission of India
Geneva**

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Statement by India on L.10- Access to Medicine

Health is emerging as a major area of concern all over the world, more so in the developing countries, where ill health and poverty are mutually reinforced. This is complicated further with the emergence of new diseases as a result of many factors including changing lifestyles. Access to new medicines at affordable costs is a major challenge in many countries, especially developing countries. New and practical ways and means to provide safe efficacious and quality medicines to its citizens has become even more challenging in the context of the global financial and economic crisis as the cost of health care has increased by leaps and bounds.

2. States must ensure availability of essential medicines at affordable prices while providing sufficient opportunity for innovation and competition to support the growth of the pharmaceutical industry. States must also promote Research and Development in pharmaceuticals especially in the public sector. States should endeavour to ensure a balanced and high-quality patent system that seeks to avoid granting of patents merely for ever-greening and overcoming barriers that block access to affordable medicines. Generic medicines are an

important source of affordable medicines to people and states should ensure their availability.

3. Access to medicines is an integral component of the right to health. It is in this context, that we believe that this Resolution will contribute to the full and effective enjoyment of the right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.
