



**GA9.3: Resolution on Access and availability of drugs for health care providers
General Assembly Meeting – Durban – Wednesday, 2 November 2016**

The IHF members gathered for the 2016 General assembly in Durban, Republic of South Africa have adopted the following resolution:

The IHF members want to raise global awareness on the challenges that health service providers are facing with **prices and availability of treatments**, especially for new treatments.

IHF members have been reporting growing difficulties in both treatment availability and level of pricing for treatments recognized of major benefits to the patients.

This issue has become significantly important in some countries where health professionals have mobilized the government calling upon them for action.

In addition, large international NGOs like MSF have also been advocating for action to make drugs more accessible.

This topic was brought forward during the May 2016, G7 summit hosted in Japan but because of absence of full consensus between all governments no strong Statement came out from this meeting.

It is acknowledged that both WTO rules and specific interest of countries in relation to their own drug manufacturing capacities may create limitation for reaching a global agreement backed up by governments.

This situation is limiting the capacity of healthcare service providers to respond effectively to population health needs according to the latest evidence based recommendations on treatments. If it can be acknowledged that for some stakeholder's current situation may be considered beneficial for them, a longer term view should convince them that such benefits will not pay off because reducing access to care is undermining the whole development of the healthcare sector by damaging its image in the population.

About a year after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations it is also clear that universal health coverage will be achieved only if all parties make efforts to increase scope and level of coverage of health services to the population.

The IHF community gathered in Durban for the World Hospital Congress is therefore calling upon all parties to go beyond short term agenda to better consider the importance of providing latest treatments at reasonable prices as well as making sure that supply chain starting from the manufacturers' factories guarantees the availability of drugs as needed in any country.

The IHF community will be sharing information on progresses that are made and will show case best practices as well as inadvisable practices.

The IHF community will be also monitoring national and international campaigns on this topic and request that the IHF secretariat brings to the IHF Governing Council latest developments so that it can decide on when it is appropriate to be joining forces with others.