



Special Session 8

Delivering quality, driving equity from policy to access: A regional vision for medical products

16 April 2025, 2:00–3:30 p.m. Beirut time

Background and objectives:

Equitable access to affordable medicines and vaccines is essential for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This session will explore strategies to strengthen local production, regulatory systems, and supply chains, while addressing cost and efficiency challenges. Collaboration will be key to ensuring sustainable solutions that leave no one behind.

The objectives of the special session are the following:

- Showcase and discuss strategies to strengthen local production, regulation, and supply chains.
- Create momentum to enhance access through pooled procurement.
- Advocate for equitable new vaccine introduction, especially in middle-income countries.
- Link community-based services to improve delivery and outcomes.
- Promote regional collaboration for health equity and SDG

Questions to be addressed:

- What measures can be taken to reduce disparities in access to medical products across different socio-economic groups?
- Which logistical challenges are frequently encountered when delivering medical products to remote areas in low- and middle-income countries?
- What challenges do local manufacturers face in maintaining quality standards comparable to international standards?
- What are the most effective ways to form public-private partnerships that improve access to medical products?
- How can regulatory agencies find a balance between the necessity of stringent safety standards and the urgent need for ensuring the timely availability of essential medical products?
- What are the challenges and solutions for ensuring equitable access to vaccines and other critical medical products during global health emergencies?

Moderator:

- **Dr. Houda Langar**, Regional Adviser, Access to Medicines and Health Technologies, WHO (EMRO)

Panelists:

- **Dr. Hassan Abdourahman Elmi**, Director of the Djibouti Supply Center for Equipment and Medicines, Djibouti
- **Dr. Ali Ghamrawy**, Chairman of the Egyptian Drug Authority, Egypt
- **Prof. Abderrahmane Maaroufi**, Director of the Pasteur Institute of Morocco, Morocco
- **Ms. Lara Al-Halabi**, Community Health Worker, Aramoun Primary Health Care Center, Lebanon
- **Dr. Faten Lemkecher**, Director of Procurement, Central Pharmacy of Tunisia, Tunisia

This Special Session will be organized as a hybrid event. To participate over Zoom, please [register here](#).

Those physically present at the UN House can attend the session in Committee Room II (B1 floor).