

GROUP 4
TRADE AND MEDICINE

Question 1

What are the Challenges/ issues or concerns in this thematic area?

ISSUE	ACTION
-urban-rural divide in access to medicines	-incentives for hard-to-reach areas -streamlining of the supply chain -establishment of a regional medicines hub to provide capacity, share research
-High donor dependence for finances	-advocate for increased domestic funding & financing
-High prices on patented products especially contraceptives	-push for increased local manufacturing of health commodities
-High private sector prices compared to other sectors	-Price regulation & controls
-Inadequate training of health workers in usage of contraceptives	-Advocate for funding for training
-Over the counter dispensation of prescription medicines leading into drug resistance (self-medication)	-advocate for strict enforcement of available legislation
-Concern on the quality of medicines	-lobby for strengthening of medicine regulation
-Utilization of TRIP flexibilities	-more competent negotiators at WTO

Question 2

What are the Opportunities (Space for Engagement and Resources) for CSO action in this thematic area?

- countries are signatory to several International conventions, declarations & protocols
- countries participate in strategic spaces like EAC, ECSCA-HC, AU, WHA, WTO, NEAPACOH
- Funding streams such as GFF, SIDA, GF, Bill & Melinda gates

3. What Actions are required by CSOs to address the What are the Challenges/issues or concerns in the thematic area at country, regional and global level?