



24 May 2019

To: Jens Spahn, Minister of Health, Germany

Open Letter from 66 civil society organisations working in sub Saharan Africa regarding the German government’s opposition to increased transparency in research costs and prices for medicines

We stand in strong support of the resolution proposed by Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, South Africa and more, and endorsed by civil society organisations around the world, currently being negotiated during the World Health Assembly.

We note that the issue of excessive medicine pricing is a global crisis affecting all diseases, all health technologies, and not only Africa, but all countries around the world. Astronomical medicine prices cause avoidable suffering and death, and push health systems to their limits and millions of people into poverty.

The German government’s opposition to this resolution is in sharp contrast to its claim to act as a leader in global health. A true champion of global health would vocally support this initiative.

We support maximum transparency in the prices for medicines—transparency means our governments can negotiate fair prices rather than negotiating blindly.

We are requesting the German government to stand in solidarity with people most at risk of suffering and death because of lack of access to medicines by abandoning your obstruction of this powerful resolution.

Sincerely,

AIDS Information Centre (AIC), Uganda
Cancer Alliance, South Africa—including:

Breast Course 4 Nurses, South Africa
Breast Health Foundation, South Africa
Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA), South Africa
Cancer Heroes, South Africa
Can-Sir, South Africa
CanSurvive, South Africa
Care for Cancer Foundation, South Africa
Childhood Cancer Foundation of South Africa (CHOC), South Africa
Hospice Palliative Care Association (HPCA), South Africa
Igazi Foundation, South Africa
Look Good Feel Better, South Africa
Love your Nuts, South Africa
Lymphoedema Association of South Africa (LAOSA), South Africa
Men's Foundation, South Africa
National Council Against Smoking, South Africa
National Oncology Nursing Association of SA, South Africa
Pancreatic Cancer Network of SA (PanCan), South Africa
People Living With Cancer (PLWC), South Africa
Pink Trees for Pauline, South Africa
Pink Phoenix Cancer Foundation, South Africa
Pocket Cancer Support, South Africa
Project Flamingo, South Africa
Rainbows and Smiles, South Africa
Reach for Recovery, South Africa
South African Oncology Social Work Forum (SAOSWF), South Africa
The Pink Parasol Project, South Africa
The Sunflower Fund, South Africa
Vrede Foundation, South Africa
Wings of Hope, South Africa

Centre for Health Human Rights and Development (CEHURD), Uganda
Centre for Participatory Research and Development CEPARD, Uganda
Coalition for Health Promotion and Social Development (HEPS Uganda), Uganda
Global Coalition of Women against AIDS in Uganda, Uganda
Health GAP
Health Rights Action Group (HAG), Uganda
Hope After Rape, Uganda
Human Right Research Documentation Centre (HURIC), Uganda
Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF), Uganda
Initiative for Prisoners Health Rights, Uganda
International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW), Uganda
International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW), Zimbabwe
Kampala District Forum of PLHIV Networks (KADFO), Uganda
Makerere Women Development Association, Uganda
Mama's Club, Uganda

Mariam foundation, Uganda
Médecins Sans Frontières Southern Africa
National Community of Women Living with HIV, Uganda
National Forum for People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAFOPHANU), Uganda
Positive Men's Union, Uganda
Prevention Care International (PCI), Uganda
SAMASHA, Uganda
SECTION27, South Africa
Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI), Uganda
Support on AIDS and Life Through Telephone Helpline (SALT), Uganda
The Action Group for Health, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS Uganda, Uganda
Treatment Action Campaign, South Africa
Tusitukirewamu, Uganda
Uganda Health Sciences Press Association, Uganda
Uganda Network of AIDS Services Organization (UNASO), Uganda
Uganda Network on Law Equality and Ethics (UGANET), Uganda
Uganda Young Positives (UYP), Uganda
Uganda's young positive networks (UNYPA), Uganda
White Ribbon Alliance (WRA), Uganda