Welcome and Introduction

- Good afternoon, I hope you enjoyed the lunch.

- Thank you for coming to our launch event for our Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration between Patients’ Organizations, Healthcare Professionals and the Pharmaceutical Industry in support of high quality patient care.

- My name is Joanna Groves, and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the International Alliance of Patients’ Organizations. I am delighted to welcome you here today on behalf of the five partner organizations that have developed this Consensus Framework. The organizations are the:
  - International Alliance of Patients’ Organizations
  - International Council of Nurses
  - International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations
  - International Pharmaceutical Federation
  - World Medical Association

- During this launch we will be introducing and discussing the Framework. We are delighted to have a representative from the World Health Organization with us to give their comments on the Framework. This will be followed by comments from representatives from the partner organizations on what the Framework means to them and then we will be opening the floor to give you the opportunity to ask questions about the framework.

- Firstly I would like to introduce the Framework and say a little about its development, the principles it encompasses and its intended use.
All partners have a mutual interest in ensuring that the relationship between patients, healthcare professionals, the pharmaceutical sector, and their organisations, is based on ethical and responsible decision making.

As we all know, as developed and developing countries strive to address pressing health challenges in the complex and fast-evolving healthcare environment, collaboration between all partners is essential in ensuring proper delivery of the most appropriate care for patients worldwide. It is vital that these relationships are conducted with integrity and appropriately serve the best interest of patients.

In the 1980s international codes and guidelines were approved and since then progress has been made to ensure appropriate interactions and ethical promotion of medicines globally, including through self-regulatory and voluntary mechanisms such as codes of conduct and principles.

These highlight the need for patients’ organisations, healthcare professionals, and the pharmaceutical industry to work together for the benefit of patients, while recognizing each other’s professional role in the context of healthcare design and delivery and maintaining their professional independence.

Our five organizations came together because of this important link between patients, healthcare professionals, the pharmaceutical industry and their organisations in providing best solutions to patients’ health needs.

Since 2011, the signatory partners have been meeting twice a year to discuss developments and main challenges relating to professional interactions. Through dialogue and information exchange, it became evident that our organization’s institutional codes and guidelines share fundamental values.
Consortium Framework
Launch Event
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- We agreed to explore a way to collectively highlight the commonalities and contribute to advancing ethical interactions and the Consensus Framework was established to capture the shared values and build trust among partners and the public.

- It encompasses a shared commitment of organisations representing patients, healthcare professionals, and the pharmaceutical industry to continually improve global health and ensure, in collaboration with other stakeholders, that all patients receive appropriate treatment.

- We hope it demonstrates our collective stance on ethical promotion of medicines and appropriate interactions.

- Each partner has a unique role and responsibility to play in ensuring patients receive the most appropriate care:
  - patients must be informed and empowered to, along with their caregivers, decide on the most appropriate treatment options for their individual health needs and to participate responsibly in use of health resources and managing their own health.
  - healthcare professionals must ensure that the treatment options they offer to patients are appropriate and
  - the pharmaceutical industry has a duty to provide accurate, fair, and scientifically grounded information for their products, so that the responsible use of medicines can be facilitated.

- The Consensus Framework outlines four overarching principles that should be considered by all partners to help guide ethical collaborations at the individual and organisational levels, and is based on the common elements
within the documents listed in the Tools and Resources section of the Framework.

- **Put Patients First; Support Ethical Research and Innovation; Ensure Independence and Ethical Conduct; and Promote Transparency and Accountability.**

- I will briefly outline each of these. So, for example with regards to the first principle of ‘**Put Patients First**’ it is paramount that patients and delivering greater patient benefits are the priority in all partnerships.

- The principle of ‘**Support Ethical Research and Innovation**’ stresses the need to encourage clinical and related research and that all human subject research must have a legitimate scientific purpose, aim to improve health outcomes, be ethically conducted, including that participants are appropriately informed as to the nature and purpose of the research and that compensation for research is appropriate and does not compromise objective clinical results.

- The third principles is to ‘**Ensure Independence and Ethical Conduct**’ stressing that interactions are, at all time, ethical, appropriate and professional and highlighting some tangible examples such as gifts, sponsorship and affiliations not having inappropriate influence in practice, professional integrity or obligations to patients.

- The final principle is to ‘**Promote Transparency and Accountability**’ and this outlines partners support for transparency and accountability in individual and collaborative activities such as fees for services and clinical research transparency which is transparent whilst respecting patient privacy.

- So how we do hope that this Framework will be used?
• Well, with this Framework we aim to complement the various national, regional and global codes and guidelines that exist and serve as a model for similar joint initiatives between patient organisations, healthcare professionals and pharmaceutical industry associations at the national level.

• It doesn’t aim to be comprehensive and it doesn’t constitute a single common policy of the organizations involved. The individual policies of the participating organisations set out each organisation’s detailed commitments and offer more diverse and in depth information and guidance.

• The Consensus Framework is a living document and is open to other key partners working in life-sciences and healthcare delivery, which are welcome to endorse it and comment upon it.

• Introduce Edward Kelley, Director, Department of Service Delivery and Safety, World Health Organization