

STATEMENT

75th WHO Regional Committee for Africa: Progress report on the implementation of the strategy for scaling up health innovations in the African region

27 AUGUST 2025, LUSAKA – IFPMA takes note of WHO AFRO's Progress report on the implementation of the strategy for scaling up health innovations in the African region.

Health innovation is not only a driver of health equity – it is a cornerstone of economic growth and societal resilience.

Africa is home to extraordinary life sciences talent and ingenuity. We are proud to partner with institutions like the [H3D Foundation](#), which is building world-class drug discovery capacity on the continent.

Enabling this innovation requires talent development, stable markets, and a robust and predictable policy environment that incentivizes R&D, including a strong intellectual property framework. This leads to long term benefits, including the ability to attract investment in innovation and strengthen the pharmaceutical sector base, as well as enable sustainable economic growth. Crucial to delivering this is the TRIPS agreement, which we encourage countries to fully implement.

A strong regulatory ecosystem is equally essential. We support the operationalization of the African Medicines Agency and the broader regulatory harmonization agenda, which can accelerate access to quality-assured medicines and vaccines through reliance, work-sharing, and mutual recognition. These efforts are pivotal to ensuring timely access for patients and combatting substandard and falsified medicines.

As the burden of NCDs rises, innovation must be at the heart of the response. Addressing NCDs is not only a health imperative, it is a litmus test for how effectively we can integrate innovation into health systems to deliver on Universal Health Coverage.

We stand ready to work with WHO AFRO, Member States, and all partners to ensure that the innovation ecosystems flourish, ultimately benefiting patients and societies.