



STATEMENT

79th World Health Assembly (WHA79): Rare diseases: A global health priority for equity and inclusion

22 MAY 2026, GENEVA – IFPMA strongly supports the implementation of a Global Action Plan for Rare Diseases. This plan represents a unique opportunity to close long-standing gaps in access to specialized care, while reinforcing health systems and advancing Universal Health Coverage.

The innovative pharmaceutical industry stands ready to work in partnership with WHO, governments, patients, clinicians, and all stakeholders across the rare disease ecosystem. Key to this collaboration is:

- Developing global diagnostic guidance to reduce inequalities in early access to diagnosis and therapeutic opportunities
- Strengthening rare disease data systems that enable medical advances and improve efficiency across health systems, both for rare diseases and for common conditions.

IFPMA looks forward to contributing to the industry's expertise to the Global Action Plan and urges the WHO to initiate the process.

Thank you.