

**Submission to:
WHO's Second Public Hearing on Public Health Innovation and Intellectual
Property**

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Summary

The Global Strategy aims to "provide a medium-term framework for an enhanced and sustainable basis for needs-driven, essential research and development relevant to diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries." This is precisely the sort of agenda the international community must adopt to address the neglected diseases currently ravaging communities of the developing world. The scope for broad-based input provided by way of this public hearing is laudable. Yet the voices of the most vulnerable are not likely to be heard through such a channel, and these are the voices that should be at the forefront of the discussion. Gender analysis is one strategy that will help ensure that efforts to prioritize public health are truly needs-driven and sustainable.

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