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The Advanced Medical Technology Association, NGO

The Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) welcomes the opportunity to offer its views on the July 2007 WHO Draft global strategy and plan of action. The World Health Organization (WHO) Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (IGWG) is to be commended for undertaking such an important task.

As the world's leading association representing medical device manufacturers, we are pleased to share our unique experience, knowledge and perspectives critical to ensuring worldwide access to the most advanced medical technologies.

AdvaMed fully supports the advancement of effective policies that promote the development of human resource capacities for health innovation in developing countries. The strengthening of product regulatory capacities and appropriate training and retention of researchers and health professionals is vital to the progress towards sustainable health care systems – without which, there can be no real health innovation in these developing countries.

The development and strengthening of regulatory and intellectual property procedures, standards and enforcement capacities are essential to ensuring the safety and efficacy of health innovations, and continued investment in promising new technologies of benefit to patients worldwide. Innovation brings with it responsibility for consumers and patients. Without the development of a proper framework for such enforcement the chances for product counterfeiting and erosion of consumer and investor confidence are very high.

Public-Private partnerships could be very useful in synergizing resources and in the training of developing country government officials in regulatory and intellectual property systems development as well as enforcement practices. AdvaMed, as many health technology associations, often works with government officials in developing countries on many issues, including assisting in regulatory and intellectual property training. In order to achieve the mandate of the IGWG, better and stronger use of public-private partnerships should be encouraged.