Written statement:

In response to the question: “How could your entity contribute in a practical and sustainable manner to the PABS System”, we believe that Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) can contribute to the PABS System in several practical ways. MPP works to expand access to essential health products in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) through licensing and technology transfer. These are core tools for equitable access and are mentioned as part of the benefit-sharing elements set out under Article 12 of the Pandemic Agreement. The “additional benefits” highlighted in Article 12(8) namely, capacity-building, technical assistance, R&D collaboration, non-exclusive licensing, and technology transfer, can play a key role in strengthening global manufacturing capacity. And these are all areas where MPP has long-standing experience working closely with WHO and Member States.

A clear illustration is the mRNA Technology Transfer Programme, launched by WHO and MPP in July 2021.The Programme was created in response to COVID-19 to provide a concrete, multilateral solution to inequities in vaccine access. At its core, there is a coordinated model where technology is developed centrally and then shared through a network of partners across regions. Through the Programme, the mRNA platform has successfully been developed and is now being transferred to manufacturers in 15 countries across all WHO regions, demonstrating how technology transfer can translate into real, distributed capacity. As the mRNA Technology Transfer Programme enters its second phase, it is expected that by 2030, the companies involved in the Programme would be in a position to supply over 1.9 billion doses of vaccines for pandemic response.

Importantly, the Programme has evolved beyond a single disease. Regional R&D consortia have been established to explore relevant disease areas and develop next-generation mRNA applications, including vaccines and therapeutics. This will help to ensure that the capabilities developed are utilized between pandemics while maintaining a foundation for rapid response.

The choice of mRNA technology reflects its adaptability, as it can be rapidly retargeted for new pathogens. It is also relatively straightforward to transfer and scale up and requires a smaller facility footprint than many traditional platforms. However, the underlying model, including transparent licensing, knowledge, skills and technical expertise transfer, and regional capacity strengthening is applicable to other technologies and can be adapted to support PABS benefit-sharing more broadly.

In addition, MPP’s experience and expertise in negotiating non-exclusive licensing agreements and in facilitating their implementation in collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders at international and national levels have enabled access to innovative health

products in over 140 LMICs and has increasingly been used to support the geographical diversification of manufacturing. MPP offers practical mechanisms that can help the PABS System shift from high-level commitments to operational and impactful outcomes.