Agenda Item 8.4 Beginning of the Decade of Action for ending viral hepatitis, HIV and STIs as public health threats by 2030 in the South-East Asia Region

Thank you, Regional Director, Hon. Ministers, Dignitaries, Delegates, and non-State Actors.

IAPO is an alliance of some 300 global patients’ organizations promoting patient centered healthcare globally. We firstly endorse the report SEA/RC74/9 and commend you all for supporting the Decade of Action for ending viral hepatitis, HIV, and STIs as public health threats by 2030 in the WHO SEA Region.

These infectious diseases must be eliminated together as all three have the same structural, social and behavioral determinants entrenching them in WHO SEA Region’s health systems.

IAPO recommends the use of patient engagement and patient co-creation in the Decade of Action so that we can use patient insight, economy of scale and the synergies generated by addressing all the three diseases using a common prevention, vaccination, treatment, and cure strategy and resources that can be drawn out and executed together with patients as many have a combination of co-morbidities involving all the three infectious diseases.

IAPO now calls for priority investment in the Decade of Action to ensure we have accessible and affordable rapid diagnostic tests and investment in vaccination where applicable to prevent infections. IAPO wants sustainable investment in antiretroviral therapy (ART) and the direct-acting antiviral to make them equitably accessible.

Member States are requested to consider draft resolution proposed by Indonesia and adopt it.

Thank you for your attention