



INTERNATIONAL GENERIC AND
BIOSIMILAR MEDICINES ASSOCIATION

IGBA Statement at WIPO 2024 General Assemblies Opening Session

Pharmaceutical innovation drives progress, and deserves reward, with intellectual property playing a key role in its protection. Expanding access to these innovations after rewarding them is crucial for public health. In well-functioning markets, generic and biosimilar medicines provide affordable, quality-assured therapeutic options enabling widespread access without compromising safety, efficacy, or quality. This balance supports Universal Health Coverage, reduces financial vulnerability, and ensures sustainable healthcare systems, contributing to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, and 10.

High-quality patents are essential to protect novel pharmaceutical inventions and ensure they benefit society. Public policy must prepare for the post-IP protection phase to ensure smooth transitions from innovation to access. Patent offices play a vital role in rigorously assessing and granting of patent stringent quality standards, fostering a robust innovation ecosystem and preventing “low-quality” patents that hinder access.

Through this important platform, IGBA urges all stakeholders to develop and implement robust patent quality criteria for more equitable and balanced IP systems that support both innovation and access. This is crucial for the economic sustainability of pharmaceutical markets and to safeguard of public health.

We thank you for the opportunity of speaking here today and wish you a successful meeting.

About IGBA

The International Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA) strengthens cooperation between associations representing manufacturers of generic and biosimilar medicines from around the world. Adopting a patient centric approach, IGBA works to improve patients’ access to quality-assured, safe and cost-effective medicines by promoting competition and enabling innovation in the pharmaceutical sector and sustainable economic contributions for all stakeholders. For more details, regarding IGBA and its member associations, see the IGBA website at: www.igbamedicines.org.