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**Stopping Unethical Drug Promotion:  
To Prevent Economic Loss from Rising Healthcare Costs**

The Second National Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on Stopping Unethical Drug Promotion: To Prevent Economic Loss from Rising Healthcare Costs,

*Anxious* about the country's unnecessarily high spending on drugs as well as about the situation of unsuitable drug use;

*Concerned* that attempts have been made to promote unethical drug sale by those who offer benefits and those who demand benefits based on the illness of the public;

*Aware* that the unethical drug promotion in such situations has led to economic losses, affected the health of the patients, and eroded the trusts that the society has in physicians, pharmacists and related medical personnel;

*Aware of* the policy and various legal provisions concerned in that at present the law covers only advertisement control, that there are still problems of effective enforcement and the law being out of touch with the situation, and that there is no control of drug promotion whatsoever;

*Viewing* that all sectors in the drug system play an important part in improving the situation, i.e., education sector, professional councils/organizations, law enforcement organizations, health service units, organizations that supervise the three health insurance schemes, private and industrial sector, mass media, people's media and civil society<sup>1</sup>;

Hereby adopts the following resolutions:

1. Adopting the Strategies to put an end to unethical drug promotion as attached in the annex herewith.

2. Requesting the National Health Commission to:

2.1 Submit the Strategies to put an end to unethical drug promotion to the cabinet for approval and for the cabinet to instruct agencies concerned to implement such strategies.

2.2 Submit to the cabinet to consider the followings:

2.2.1. Assign the National Drug System Development Committee, together with the National Health Security Office, Social Security Office and the Comptroller General's Department of Ministry of Finance to appoint working groups whose members are drawn from all sectors without any conflict of interest with local or international pharmaceutical companies to do the following:

(1) Develop ethical criteria in light of WHO Ethical Criteria for Medicinal Drug Promotion as well as other international experiences so that they are used as the nation's central criteria and update them on a regular basis, covering drug promotion, interaction between people concerned with the pharmaceutical industry, good governance, transparency and possible conflicts of interests in the drug systems concerned.

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<sup>1</sup> See attachment identifying the systems concerned and their important functions

(2) Study the system whereby such ethical criteria, serving as the country's central criteria, can be introduced and effectively enforced in the form of the law, as well as the strong and effective administration of such law.

(3) Publicize the information extensively so that all sectors are informed and can apply such ethical criteria or modify them accordingly.

The National Drug System Development Committee shall finish its above assignments within 1 year.

2.2.2 Entrust the National Health Security Office, Social Security Office, and Comptroller-General's Department, Ministry of Finance, with the task of jointly forming a working group to study and develop proposals of establishing an independent organization to be responsible for putting the system in place, monitor, inspecting, collecting and reporting the situations on drug use and unethical drug promotion at national level. Representatives of all sectors and civil society will jointly inspect the situation. The working group shall complete its work within one year.

3. Requesting the Secretary-General of the National Health Commission to report the progress, obstacles, and ways to overcome them to the Fourth National Health Assembly.