

**Intervention on provisional agenda item 7.6 Role of the health sector in the sound management of chemicals
138th EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Speaker: Ms Zuzana Kusynová, from the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Pharmaceutical Federation, the global organisation representing three million pharmacists worldwide.

We welcome the report on the role of the health sector in the sound management of chemicals. The focus on chemicals is very important. We regret, however, that nowhere in this report is it specified that chemicals include pharmaceuticals.

Pharmaceutical chemicals enter our water supplies, soil and atmosphere, and are proven to cause negative effects on living organisms and humans. Furthermore, a combination of demographic transitions and growth, economic development and urbanisation signals continued increases in levels of pharmaceuticals, particularly in megacities.

The environmental impact of pharmaceuticals cannot be denied. Yet there are many ways in which this impact can be diminished, during research and development, during manufacturing, transport and dispensing, and also at disposal.

FIP is supporting the full engagement of pharmacists in reducing the environmental impact of pharmaceuticals. Our contribution to the evidence and global discussion on this issue includes our latest report “Green pharmacy practice: Taking responsibility for the environmental impact of medicines”¹.

We therefore strongly recommend that the inclusion of pharmaceuticals and their management in this discussion is considered.

Thank you.

(201 words)

¹ Available at: www.fip.org/publications