

Intervention on provisional agenda item 21.1: Strengthening synergies between the World Health Assembly and the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

72nd WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Speaker: International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP). This statement is supported by the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF). Together we represent more than four million pharmacists and pharmacy students worldwide.

We congratulate the WHO on the success of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) held in October 2018. We support the synergies between this Assembly and FCTC's Conference of Parties.

FIP, as the FCTC observer, supports the implementation of Article 12 of the WHO FCTC on education, communication, training and public awareness. As the experts in medicines and as public health advocates, pharmacists can reduce the impact of tobacco through health promotion and prevention; triage activities such as screening, assessing tobacco addiction, and referral to interprofessional collaborative teams; and tobacco cessation services.

In 2015, FIP published a document entitled "Establishing tobacco-free communities: A practical guide for pharmacists", which gives an overview of the different tobacco cessation activities that pharmacists effectively perform and explains how to implement such activities. We urge Member States to empower pharmacists to offer medication reviews that also discuss lifestyle and smoking habits. We also advocate for the inclusion of pharmacy students and young pharmacists in public health initiatives that raise awareness of the harmful effects of smoking and the availability of smoking cessation programmes. To stimulate youth action, our Young Pharmacists Group has marked "World No Tobacco Day" on social and other media. Moreover, in 2018, IPSF member organisations ran no tobacco and healthy living campaigns raising awareness about tobacco control. These reached around 30,000 people in 25 different countries.

Finally, we would like to reaffirm pharmacists' commitment in supporting the implementation of the WHO FCTC global strategy for better and healthy nations.

Thank you for your attention.