

**Intervention on provisional agenda item 15.1 on Antimicrobial resistance
SIXTY-EIGHTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

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 over three million pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists.

We applaud the WHO for this Global Action Plan and thank it for the opportunity to contribute to its consultations. In order to support the plan's implementation, FIP is preparing a briefing document for pharmacists on combating AMR.

Under Objectives 1 and 4, we would add that proper understanding and awareness around responsible use of antibiotics is crucial and that adherence is an important part of this. It is well known that a large proportion of patients fail to adhere to long-term treatment, for example of TB. A joint statement from FIP and WHO¹ empowers pharmacists to take on new roles, such as via DOTS (directly observed treatment, short-course) where medication is directly supervised by pharmacists. DOTS has proven to be efficient and should be used for other infectious bacterial diseases.

Objective 4 highlights that diagnostic tools should easily be integrated into [...] pharmacy practice. In the UK, the National Chlamydia Screening Programme helps to reach the at-risk population via point-of-care (POC) testing in pharmacies. Similar models can be used for other infections such as syphilis, providing opportunities to increase access to testing and accelerating efforts² to eliminate such diseases. FIP is investing an ambitious US\$2m over 5 years in its Education Initiative to ensure that pharmacists are adequately competent in such new roles.

Also under Objective 4, regarding interprofessional collaboration, it should be added that prescribers should be supported with feedback on their prescribing. This would be facilitated if indications were present on prescriptions as recommended by FIP's advisory board on indication-based prescribing.

Finally, we would like to stress that antibiotics should be distributed via authorised channels only (ie, via pharmacies), eliminating substandard/spurious/falsely-labelled/falsified/counterfeit medicines.

(302 words)

¹ http://www.who.int/tb/features_archive/who_fip_joint_statement.pdf?ua=1

² <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3635142/>