

**Intervention on provisional agenda item 18. A - Comprehensive mental health action plan 2013–2020**  
**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, representing over three million pharmacists worldwide.

We applaud the Secretariat for efforts towards implementation of this global action plan. It requires engagement of a variety of audiences, including those involved in organising, delivering and funding mental health services.

The plan urges action to fill treatment gaps, and is inspiring for pharmacists' associations. As it becomes more recognised that mental health requires a comprehensive approach with common services and resource mobilisation, pharmacists are taking a greater role. This is demonstrated by policies such as in Australia (with the publication of "A framework for pharmacists as partners in mental health care"<sup>1</sup>) and in the USA (through the development of a pharmacy speciality of psychopharmacology and behavioural health matters),<sup>2</sup> to give two examples.

We applaud the outline of important new directions in mental health, including a central role for community-based care, as well as strategies to promote good mental health. Pharmacists are ideally placed for all of these as highlighted by a document, "Focus on Mental Health", which FIP is preparing. This document contains an overview of different activities for mental health promotion, illness prevention and care that pharmacists are involved in. These are structured into: 1) Triage; 2) Health promotion; 3) Early detection; 4) Optimising treatment outcomes through assessing medication needs, ensuring safe treatment and supporting adherence; 5) Education, including preventing addiction; 6) Reducing the cost burden for people with mental disorders; and 7) Interprofessional collaborative practice.

FIP is happy to share experiences on identifying pharmacists as an under-utilised resource that could fill existing mental healthcare gaps.

Thank you.

(300 words)

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<sup>1</sup> Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. Mental health care project: A framework for pharmacists as partners in mental health care: <http://www.psa.org.au/download/policies/mental-health-framework.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> American Pharmacists Association - Board of Pharmacy Specialties. <http://bpsweb.org/>