

Intervention on provisional agenda item 4.3 - Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030): early childhood development

142th EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), which represents over four million pharmacists worldwide.

We applaud the WHO for its leadership in introducing new data and initiatives in this area. FIP has called on its national associations to take an even more active role in supporting good health in women, children and adolescents. They adopted FIP policy¹ on the effective contribution of pharmacists in improving maternal, newborn and child health. Our policy document highlights that when pharmacists are able to work within the full scope of pharmacy services in their country, they improve health outcomes for women and children. Examples of pharmacist-led initiatives targeting women include medication review during pregnancy in Germany, screening for breast cancer in Jordan, and supplementation programmes to prevent maternal anaemia in Tanzania.²

Under Point 4 of the Secretariat's report we bring to attention the value of pharmacists in supplying emergency contraception over the counter as well as advising on general contraception. We also note the value of pharmacists around Point 21, in promoting breastfeeding to mothers.

Last year, FIP set up a working group dedicated to women in their role as informal caregivers and in ensuring the responsible use of medicines. Women, more often than not, assume responsibility for the care of children and family members. Pharmacists, as easily accessible and approachable health professionals, empower women to make informed and evidence-based decisions on their own health as well as that of their families.

Thank you for your attention.

¹ The Effective Utilization of Pharmacists in Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) (2013, Dublin)

² FIP internal database