

Intervention on provisional agenda item 13.2 Draft action plan for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases 2013-2020

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

We applaud the Secretariat for this comprehensive action plan; especially under target 8, for considering not only the provision of medicines but also the necessary counseling so that the outcomes of these medicines and other technologies are optimized to the benefit of patients and their communities.

As highlighted during a Ministers Summit organised by the Dutch Ministry of Health in conjunction with the FIP Centennial in 2012, over 500 billion dollars of health expenditures could be avoided worldwide every year if responsible use of medicines, including better counseling and adherence was achieved.

We also appreciate that document A66/9 stresses the importance of health system strengthening, as an integral requirement to achieve the voluntary global targets.

We would recommend that given the focus on counseling in this action plan, pharmacists should be listed under item 30h on workforce. Indeed, there is strong evidence of the impact of pharmacists' counseling and health promotion and prevention programmes delivered in the heart of their communities.

In implementing this plan, we need to consider ensuring the competency of the health workforce. To that end, FIP has collaborated with stakeholders, including WHO, through FIP's Education Initiatives, called FIPed, to assess the status of the pharmacy workforce and reform pharmacy education systems, so that the pharmacy workforce is able to respond to current and future needs of the population, including to NCDs. We are happy to assist any government in this reform process.

Given that pharmacists are the most accessible healthcare professionals in their community, we are committed to support the activities of the Secretariat and the translation of this global plan into comprehensive national approaches.

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