

## Intervention on provisional agenda item 17.4

### The health workforce: advances in responding to shortages and migration, and in preparing for emerging needs

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

We welcome the progress in reporting health workforce shortage and migration. Our experience in undertaking a systematic review, global survey and country case studies on pharmaceutical human resources has shown that there is little documenting and reporting on pharmacists' migration.

As the number essential medicines continues to grow to respond to societal health needs, and the evidence strengthens of the waste caused by the lack of responsible medicines use, there is a need to strengthen pharmaceutical human resources. Comprehensive workforce planning and education and training of sufficient pharmacists and pharmacy support workforce are needed to ensure that medicines are utilised to enable the best outcomes for patient health.

We welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with the WHO Human Resources Team and the Medicines Coordination Programme Team in undertaking the global survey on pharmaceutical human resources; the resulting report is published and freely available online. The data collected has also been included in the 2013 WHO World Statistics. FIP is also committed to hosting a Global Pharmacy Observatory to ensure that national and regional data on pharmaceutical human resources are continually updated and available at the global level.

This year FIP will also be publishing the first Global Technical Report on Pharmacy Education. This report is the fruit of a long-term collaboration with the WHO HRH Team. The report will include data and analyses on pharmacy education from over 100 countries and territories, as well as, a qualitative analysis of the drivers that are transforming pharmacy education across 12 countries. We look forward to sharing and disseminating the report during the annual FIP Congress in Dublin Ireland in September this year.

Thank you for your attention.

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