

**Intervention on provisional agenda item 15.4 Access to essential medicines
SIXTY-SEVENTH 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 (FIP), the global organisation representing over three million pharmacists worldwide.

We congratulate the Secretariat for this report which identifies important issues preventing universal access to essential medicines and their responsible use.

Through the implementation of universal health coverage, governments are increasingly investing in medicines. There is, therefore, a need to ensure that these investments will lead to positive health outcomes; in other words, that medicines are used responsibly. Indeed, an independent report presented at the Ministers' summit on the benefits of responsible use of medicines, held in 2012 in Amsterdam, revealed that 500 billion dollars¹ could be saved annually if responsible use of medicines is achieved. Pharmacists have been identified as a key contributor to making these savings. This highlights that access to medicines should systematically be combined with access to pharmaceutical expertise to ensure their responsible use.

With the aim of improving access to reliable medicines, especially in developing countries, FIP is developing biowaiver monographs. This evidence-based project is supported by WHO. It decreases the requirements for clinical trials to assess the bioequivalence for generic drug products through dissolution tests without compromising safety. This facilitates the approval process, increasing the number of generics available. Up until now, more than 40 monographs have been published (and also made available on the FIP Website)². The next drug candidates for future biowaiver monographs are primarily from the Essential Medicines List of WHO.

As proposed in the International Summit on Medicine Shortage organised by FIP in Toronto last year, one of the six recommendations summarised in the report³ of this meeting, is to identify medicines from the Essential Medicines List that are at high risk of being in short supply. FIP would welcome the opportunity to work with WHO on this list and on developing prevention measures. FIP also invites the honourable members of the WHA to support this activity.

Thank you for your attention.

(330 words)

¹ http://www.fip.org/centennial/files/static/REPORT_MINISTERS_SUMMIT_-_English_version_final.pdf

² https://www.fip.org/bcs_monographs

³ http://www.fip.org/files/fip/publications/FIP_Summit_on_Medicines_Shortage.pdf