

**Intervention on provisional agenda item 8. Global vaccine action plan
146th 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 congratulate the WHO for its leadership role in driving the Global Vaccine Action Plan 2011-2020. Despite some great progress, access to vaccines is still far from its potential. It is important to apply learning from the outcomes of this plan to future actions.

Since 2011, when pharmacists were first recognised as immunisers by the WHO, pharmacists have taken an active role as immunisers in 27 countries and territories. In 34 countries, representing around half of the world's population, pharmacists act as vaccination advocates. At a time when the anti-vaccination movement poses a threat to global health, pharmacists are providing evidence-based advice.

With adequate training, pharmacists can significantly improve vaccination coverage. In Ireland, influenza vaccinations have increased by 48% since pharmacists started vaccinating in 2011. In Costa Rica from July 2017 to July 2018, pharmacists performed over 48,000 immunisations, representing one third of the country's private sector vaccinations.

In addition to the positive impact on public health, investment of 1 USD in immunisations creates 44 USD in low- and middle-income countries over a decade.

We urge the WHO to promote, and Member States to expand, the roles of pharmacists in vaccine administration. The time is right to update the legal and regulatory requirements and to provide the appropriate remuneration and incentives for a public health service that clearly generates savings for both patients and health systems, as well as decreases burden on physicians.

With this empowerment of pharmacists, progress toward achieving immunisation goals will be accelerated, in line with the vision of the Global Action Plan.

Thank you for your attention.