

## **Intervention on provisional agenda item 14.1 COVID-19 response**

### **148<sup>th</sup> 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.

Around the world, community pharmacies have remained open to provide essential services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring access to medicines and personal protective equipment (including delivering medicines to patients at home and producing and dispensing hand sanitisers) and providing evidence-based advice to their communities.

With COVID-19 vaccines being given regulatory approval, it is vital for all countries to expand their vaccination pathways in order to deliver immunisation coverage as quickly as possible. Pharmacists are an important part of robust vaccination strategies. In fact, in at least 36 countries, pharmacists already play an active role in administering vaccinations, with proposals or regulatory developments for vaccinations in pharmacies in a further 16 countries.<sup>1</sup> In light of the benefits to us all, FIP urges policymakers to enact the enabling legislation to allow pharmacists to prescribe and administer vaccines.<sup>1</sup>

COVID-19 diagnostic testing remains an important aspect in controlling this pandemic. It should be conducted by trained healthcare professionals with the appropriate skills to perform the test, interpret its result and advise on the appropriate action. Therefore FIP advocates that community pharmacists can play an active role in diagnostic testing by providing tests and testing information to the public.<sup>2</sup> In several countries, pharmacists are already participating in screening strategies through point-of-care tests.<sup>2</sup>

To conclude, pharmacists are joining efforts with other health professionals in delivering infection prevention strategies to our populations and look forward to further doing so. We call on governments to enact the legislation necessary to support pharmacists in their contribution to bringing this pandemic to an end.

Thank you for your attention. (292 words)

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<sup>1</sup> International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP): [Call to action to expand the role of community pharmacies in vaccination, including against covid-19 and future pandemics](#)

<sup>2</sup> International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP). COVID-19: Evaluation of diagnostic testing methods and devices. International Pharmaceutical Federation; 2020. Available at <https://www.fip.org/file/4871>