

WHO 158th session of the Executive Board
2–7 February 2026

Agenda item 14. Draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance

Distinguished Chair, honourable Members of the Executive Board,

I speak on behalf of the International Pharmaceutical Federation, representing over 5.5 million pharmacists, educators and pharmaceutical scientists worldwide.

We welcome the ‘WHO Draft Updated Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2026–2036’ and strongly support its renewed ambition to optimise antimicrobial use. Its focus on strengthening antimicrobial stewardship, expanding the evidence base, and ensuring equitable access to quality-assured antimicrobials aligns closely with FIP’s long-standing priorities, reflected in our recently adopted [Statement of Policy on mitigating AMR through stewardship](#).

Pharmacists are central to optimising antimicrobial use—a core pillar of the WHO strategy. They are uniquely positioned to support appropriate prescribing by reviewing antimicrobial therapy, antimicrobial selection, or dosing issues. They ensure correct medication use through patient engagement.

We also welcome the Plan’s emphasis on surveillance. Pharmacists play a vital role in monitoring antimicrobial consumption, identifying inappropriate use, and reporting substandard or falsified medicines—functions essential to an effective AMR response. FIP also advocates for policies that ensure antimicrobials are supplied only when clinically indicated.

We strongly endorse WHO’s focus on strengthening workforce capacity and interprofessional collaboration. FIP calls for structured, competency-based training that equips pharmacists to lead core stewardship functions. FIP continues to mobilise the global pharmaceutical workforce to deliver high-impact stewardship interventions. Our 2025 report, [Antimicrobial stewardship programmes in the hospital setting: Global policies and practices](#), highlights pharmacists’ integration into hospital stewardship programmes and the expectation that these programmes are multidisciplinary and pharmacist-led. FIP also continues developing pharmacy-specific tools and communication strategies that enable pharmacists to deliver accurate, evidence-based guidance to their patients and communities.

Finally, FIP stands ready to work with WHO and Member States to translate this Action Plan into meaningful improvements for patients, communities, and health systems worldwide.

Thank you.