

Intervention on provisional agenda item 12.4 Universal health coverage 79th WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

The FIP Global Situation Report on Pharmacy states that achieving UHC by 2030 will require harnessing the full potential of pharmacists in primary health care (PHC). With enabling policies and investment, pharmacy can deliver far more in health promotion, disease prevention, and treatment optimisation—ultimately improving access, wellbeing, quality, and equity in health for all.

Despite their value, pharmacists remain under-recognised and under-used in many countries' health policies and laws. Pharmacists are essential yet often overlooked as fully integrated health professionals.⁵

We call on Member States to develop and implement policies that enable pharmacists to practice to their full scope and ensure equitable access to pharmacy services across all populations.

Thank you for your attention.

⁵ Muscat NA, Sinclair P, Zapata T, Connolly D, Pinto GS, Kniazkov S. Embracing pharmacists' roles in health-care delivery. *The Lancet Regional Health – Europe*. 2024;46. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanepe.2024.101088>.