

FIP representation at the 79th World Health Assembly

Impact and success report

2026



FIP Development Goals



Colophon

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Representatives from the FIP constituencies:

- Early Career Pharmaceutical Group (ECPG): Ms Yifan Zhou (Canada), Ms Clara Mayunga (Netherlands), Ms Emily Sika (Nigeria) and Mr Ching-Hsun "Walter" Liu (China Taiwan)
- Academic Pharmacy Section (AcPS): Dr Hoai-An Truong (USA)
- Community Pharmacy Section (CPS): Mr Sherif Guorgui (Canada)
- Health & Medicines Information Section (HaMIS): Dr Boyan Todorov (Switzerland)
- Social and Administrative Pharmacy Section (SAPS): Ms Tara Hehir (Australia)

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- Dr Wael Ali (Egyptian Organisation of Pharmacy, Development and Training), Dr Martine Ruggli (pharmaSuisse), Mr Mark Koziol (Pharmacists' Defence Association), Mr Martin Astbury (Pharmacists' Defence Association), Mr Lee Vermeulen (American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy), Prof. Jill Kolesar (College of Pharmacy at the University of Iowa), Ms Katarina Fehir Sola (European Association of Employed Pharmacists), Ms Katarina Kostadinovic (European Association of Employed Pharmacists), Dr Borut Božič (European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy), Ms Audrey Clarissa (Indonesian Pharmacists Association), Dr Jose Maria Garcia Valdecasas G. (Mexican Pharmaceutical Association), Dr Angelica Meneses (Mexican Pharmaceutical Association), Dr Ana Maria Telles (Mexican Pharmaceutical Association), Mr Jack Shen Lim (Malaysian Pharmacists Society), Dr Oleg Klimov (NGO All Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber), Ms Anna Sazonova (NGO All Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber), Dr Irinia Suvorova (NGO All Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber), Dr Volodymyr Shevchuk (NGO All Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber), Dr Pascal Tshisekedi Tshibangu (Ordre des Pharmaciens du R.D. du Congo), Dr Suvit Teerakulchon (Pharmaceutical Association of Thailand under Royal Patronage), Ms Akua Frimpomaa Darkwah (Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana), Dr Denis O'Driscoll (Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland), Ms Joanne Kissane (Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland), Dr Jonans Tusiimire (Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda), Ms Amandeep Doll (Royal College of Pharmacy), Mr Taner Ercanli (Turkish Pharmacists Association), Dr Silvana Nair Leite (University of Federal de Santa Catarina), Mr Ronald T. Piervincenzi (United States Pharmacopeia), Mr Richard Cizungu (Neci) (Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network), and Dr Hui-Chen Su (Taiwan Society of Health-System Pharmacists).

FIP extends its sincere appreciation to the aforementioned delegates for their active participation in WHA79. In addition, sincere appreciation to Luna El Bizri (FIP Health and Medicines Information Section), who attended four side events virtually and submitted her reflections towards this report.

This report was developed by FIP team members, Dr Aysu Selçuk, FIP economic intelligence lead, Dr Ozge Ozer, FIP congress programme and sustainability manager, and Dr Mariet Eksteen, head of advocacy, communications and marketing, and signed off by Dr Catherine Duggan, FIP CEO. Thanks to the wider FIP team for support across all elements of WHA preparation and delivery.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) for providing an amazing venue at the headquarters for the FIP side event.

Foreword by FIP president

Dear FIP Members,

I am delighted to present this report on our contribution to the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA) during May 2026. Being present in Geneva during the most important event on the health governance calendar enabled us to foster our relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO), and provided an invaluable opportunity to witness, network, and influence global health policies, while championing the critical role of pharmacists, pharmacy educators and pharmaceutical scientists in global health.

The WHA affords FIP the opportunity of direct contact with global leaders in health policy and disease-state organisations. This contact in a face-to-face environment at WHA is critical to fostering relationships and collaborations in promoting pharmacy worldwide.

Four years ago, FIP realised that to broaden our reach, we needed to increase our number of delegates in Geneva. We have achieved this thanks to the unwavering support of Board members, FIP organisations in membership, and FIP constituencies. The full delegation is listed in section 1.1 of this report and consisted of 11 Board members, one Honorary President, four constituency representatives, 31 delegates from 22 organisations in membership including Academic Institutional Members (AIM), four Early Career Pharmaceutical Group (ECPG) representatives and four members of the FIP team. With a delegation of 55, FIP may well have had the biggest delegation at WHA.

As well as attending the three FIP side events, as described in detail in section 3.1, these delegates became FIP's eyes and ears at more than 80 side events organised by other stakeholders. Without their commitment and dedication, it would not be possible to present this report showcasing FIP's presence at the most important global healthcare event annually.



The testimonials from members, as included in section 1.2, indicate the mutual benefit to organisations in membership and FIP constituencies as well as to FIP in advancing pharmacy worldwide.

Forward with Pharmacy, Forward with FIP!

Handwritten signature of Paul Sinclair, AM, FIP president.

Paul Sinclair, AM
FIP president

Foreword by FIP CEO

Dear FIP Members,

It is with great pleasure that we present this report capturing our collective engagement at the 79th WHA. Once again, attending the Assembly highlighted the value of our official relations with the WHO by affirming that pharmacists, pharmacy educators and pharmaceutical scientists are essential partners in advancing global health.

FIP prioritises attendance and interactions at WHA to engage, influence and advocate. Our contributions are not limited to medication management or disease prevention, they stretch further to ensure access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines, health technologies, and pharmaceutical care services. Being in Geneva and surrounded by global health leaders and stakeholders, opportunities for engagement are, literally, presented around every corner. Through attendance at more than 80 side events in three days, the profession's presence allows us to influence discussions and ensure pharmacy has a seat at every table. When being asked to moderate or present at events, our advocacy efforts have maximum impact as we contribute data and intelligence to every discussion.

Apart from the important job at hand for all members of the delegation, being together in Geneva brings the unique opportunity to engage more closely with organisations in FIP membership. We learn more about each other's priorities, perspectives and realities in member countries, as well as gaining insights into global threats and challenges. In return, these one-on-one engagements allow FIP to, in return, share our priority projects, data and intelligence that could support organisations when addressing thorny issues with their governments and policymakers. It is through these unexpected but valuable exchanges that our mutual mission is reinforced. This report showcases the growing number of organisations that join our delegation annually and their testimonials of positive and pleasant experiences.

This report is both a record of achievement and a platform for future action. I invite you to draw on the insights we present to inform advocacy and opportunities for collaboration with FIP. Together, we will continue to demonstrate that empowering pharmacists is a direct investment in healthier communities and more resilient health systems.

Thank you for your commitment to FIP's mission and for the passion you bring to our shared work. Let us build on the momentum of WHA79 as we strive to leave no one behind by advancing pharmacy worldwide through universal pharmacy coverage.



Dr Catherine Duggan
FIP chief executive officer (CEO)

Executive summary

The 79th WHA marked a significant event for FIP, with participation from the delegation, composed of 55 committed individuals, including members of the FIP Board, representatives from Member Organisations (MOs), FIP constituencies, Early Career Pharmacy Group (ECPG) members, the chief operating officer (COO) and members of the FIP team.

FIP delivered six individual statements and three constituency statements to the WHO member states, advocating for the role of pharmacists in addressing key global health priorities, including antimicrobial resistance (AMR), substandard and falsified medical products, public health and social measures, health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, communicable diseases, immunisation Agenda 2030, mental health, and universal health coverage (UHC). These interventions are closely aligned with FIP's priority programmes, vision and mission.

During WHA79, FIP hosted its own three side events:

- 18 May 2026: Self-care is essential for primary health care (PHC): Pharmacists are critical for self-care and UHC.
- 19 May 2026: Addressing the impact of complex crises on global health through safe and sustainable access to medicines and strengthening pharmaceutical contributions to humanitarian action.
- 20 May 2026: Implementing the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and wider non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention targets by integrating the pharmacy workforce.

These high-level side events highlighted FIP's leadership in areas such as PHC, UHC, self-care, tobacco control and NCDs, pharmacy-based vaccination (PBV), humanitarian response, and access to medicines.

FIP also supported side events organised by the Taiwan Society of Health-System Pharmacists (TSHP) and the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF). FIP Board members and FIP representatives presented at 15 side events organised by the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA), European Migraine and Headache Alliance, Global Action on Men's Health, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA), Global Self-Care Federation (GSCF), World Medical Association (WMA), Global Respiratory Infection Partnership (GRIP), and the Commonwealth Pharmacist Association (CPA). FIP's participation highlighted its continued commitment to advocating for the pharmacy profession at the highest level of global health. By voicing the evidence of impact of its global network, FIP ensured that pharmacy's contributions to public health, immunisation, access to medicines, and health workforce sustainability were recognised and valued by international stakeholders.

Strategic meetings were also held to outline the impact of collaboration and strengthened relationships with WHO on the imperatives to advancing global health goals.

This report is made up of several sections highlighting different aspects of FIP's participation at the 79th WHA.

1 FIP Delegation at WHA79

The 79th WHA was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 18–23 May 2026. The theme of this year's Assembly was **Reshaping global health: a shared responsibility**.

Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus's [opening remarks at the 79th WHA](#) highlighted WHO's transformation across three core areas: strengthening science and normative functions, enhancing global health emergency preparedness, and reforming its financing model to build a more resilient and independent organisation. He emphasised major initiatives including the WHO Academy, the World Health Data Hub, investments in artificial intelligence and digital health, the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence, the Pandemic Fund, and the WHO Pandemic Agreement. Looking ahead, he stressed the importance of continued organisational reform, sustainable financing, stronger national health sovereignty, and reshaping the global health architecture through greater global solidarity and shared responsibility.

The WHA79 hosted a series of side events, including [62 official events](#) at the WHO headquarters and the United Nations (UN) Palais de Nations. These side events covered various topics in line with the [14th Global Programme of Work of WHO](#):

- i) respond to climate change, an escalating health threat;
- ii) address determinants of health and root causes of ill health;
- iii) advance the primary healthcare approach and essential health system capacities for universal health coverage;
- iv) improve health service coverage and financial protection;
- v) prevent, mitigate and prepare for health risks from all hazards; and,
- vi) rapidly detect and sustain response to health emergencies.

The WHA79 agenda is available [here](#) and recordings of the sessions can be accessed through the following link: [79th World Health Assembly](#).

1.1 FIP delegation at WHA79

The WHA serves as a prominent global gathering, bringing together health ministers, governmental authorities, health policymakers, health-related non-government organisations (NGOs), industry representatives, and WHO policy and technical officers. Alongside the WHA, numerous meetings and side events were held in various locations across Geneva, offering opportunities for networking and influencing policymaking. These events, though less formal and on a smaller scale, provided valuable avenues for engagement.

The official FIP delegation comprised the WHO limit of six delegates, including three representatives from the FIP Early Career Pharmaceutical Group (ECPG) and three FIP team members. These official delegates actively participated in the WHA meetings, delivering pre-scripted and agreed-upon statements on behalf of FIP with access to the Palais des Nations and WHO headquarters, and able to contribute to strategic roundtables and events held here.



FIP official delegation, from left to right: Yifan Zhou, Emily Sika, Clara Mayunga (FIP ECPG), Aysu Selçuk, Ozge Ozer, and Mariet Eksteen (FIP team).

Apart from the official delegates playing a vital role in the WHA proceedings, the full delegation included a broader representation of FIP leadership, organisations in membership, and FIP constituencies, fostering engagement and collaboration with key stakeholders. This inclusive approach provided organisations in membership with a valuable opportunity to engage with their respective countries' representatives, ministers, and WHO officials, fostering meaningful interactions during the WHA side events and receptions.

Table 1 presents the delegates who represented FIP at the WHA. The full FIP delegation consisted of a total of 55 delegates, including six official delegates who attended the WHA sessions (marked with a *).

Table 1. FIP-WHA79 full delegates

Delegate name	Affiliation and role
Mr Paul Sinclair AM	FIP president
Dr Catherine Duggan	FIP CEO
Prof. Nadia Al Mazrouei	FIP vice president
Mr Daragh Connolly	FIP vice president
Dr Prosper Hiag	FIP vice president
Prof. Marianne Ivey	FIP vice president
Mr Luís Lourenço	FIP vice president
Ms Raquel Martínez García	FIP vice president
Mr Robert Moss	FIP vice president
Dr Virginia Olmos	FIP vice president
Prof. John Pieper	FIP vice president
Dr Michel Buchmann	FIP Honorary president
Dr Wael Ali	Egyptian Organization of Pharmacy Development and Training (EOP) & FIP EMRpharm Forum
Mr Martin Astbury	Pharmacists' Defence Association (PDA)
Dr Borut Božič	European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy (EAFP)
Mr Richard Cizungu (Neci)	Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN)

Delegate name	Affiliation and role
Ms Audrey Clarissa	Indonesian Pharmacists Association
Ms Akua Frimpomaa Darkwah	Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana
Ms Amandeep Doll	Royal College of Pharmacy
Mr Taner Ercanli	Turkish Pharmacists Association
Dr José María García Valdecasas G.	Mexican Pharmaceutical Association
Mr Sherif Guorgui	FIP Community Pharmacy Section
Ms Tara Hehir	FIP Social and Administrative Pharmacy Section (SAPS)
Ms Joanne Kissane	Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland
Dr Oleg Klimov	NGO All Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber
Prof. Jill Kolesar	College of Pharmacy at the University of Iowa
Ms Katarina Kostadinovic	European Association of Employed Pharmacists (EPHEU)
Mr Mark Koziol	Pharmacists' Defence Association (PDA)
Dr Eugeniy Ignatov	NGO All Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber
Mr Jack Shen Lim	Malaysian Pharmacists Society (MPS)
Mr Ching-Hsun "Walter" Liu	FIP ECPG
Ms Clara Mayunga*	FIP ECPG
Dr Angelica Meneses	Mexican Pharmaceutical Association
Dr Silvana Nair Leite	University of Federal de Santa Catarina
Dr Denis O'Driscoll	Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland
Mr Ronald T. Piervincenzi	United States Pharmacopeia (USP)
Dr Martine Ruggli	pharmaSuisse
Ms Anna Sazonova	NGO All Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber
Dr Volodymyr Shevchuk	NGO All Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber
Ms Emily Sika*	FIP ECPG
Ms Katarina Fehir Sola	European Association of Employed Pharmacists (EPHEU)
Dr Hui-Chen Su	Taiwan Society of Health System Pharmacists
Dr Silvana Nair Leite	University of Federal de Santa Catarina
Dr Irinia Suvorova	NGO All Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber
Dr Ana Maria Telles	Mexican Pharmaceutical Association
Dr Suvit Teerakulchon	Pharmaceutical Association of Thailand under Royal Patronage
Dr Pascal Tshisekedi Tshibangu	Ordre des Pharmaciens du R.D. du Congo
Dr Jonans Tusiimire	Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda
Mr Lee Veremulen	American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
Dr Boyan Todorov	FIP Health and Medicines Information Section (HaMIS)
Dr Hoai-An Truong	FIP Academic Pharmacy Section (AcPS)
Ms Yifan Zhou*	FIP ECPG
Ms Carola van der Hoeft	FIP chief operating officer
Dr Mariet Eksteen*	FIP head of advocacy, communications and marketing
Dr Ozge Ozer *	FIP congress programme and sustainability manager
Dr Aysu Selçuk*	FIP economic intelligence lead

*FIP official delegates

1.2 FIP-WHA79 delegates' testimonials

Delegates shared several testimonials from their presence in Geneva during WHA79 and attendance at side events as part of the FIP delegation.



WHA79 once again demonstrated the value of FIP 'feet on the ground' at this most important meeting. FIP delegates had a presence at all the side events where one-to-one interactions with leading policy makers, politicians and health professionals allowed us to promote the important role of pharmacists in the delivery of health outcomes in all health settings. Many new relationships were forged with global health stakeholders who left with the clear message, "Think Health, Think Pharmacy."

Mr Paul Sinclair, AM
FIP president



Attendance at the WHA 2026 in Geneva was an inspiring experience of listening to and participating in discussions with some of the world's most knowledgeable global health care policy colleagues. Our WHA discussions led to action ideas for both individual pharmacists and pharmacy organisations to make health care efficient, safer and more effective worldwide and importantly, to lead programs that prevent illness. Participating in this WHO event was one of the highlights of my FIP Board member tenure.

Dr Marianne Ivey
FIP vice president



Attending the 79th WHA for the second time has been an even more rewarding experience and has reinforced my appreciation of FIP's strong leadership in global health. The meeting between the FIP delegation and WHO, together with our three FIP side events, demonstrated the federation's unique ability to bring pharmacy perspectives into high-level policy discussions and to foster collaboration with key international stakeholders. These engagements highlighted the essential contribution of pharmacists to addressing global health challenges and strengthening health systems. I am proud to have contributed to these efforts and look forward to continuing to support FIP's mission of advancing pharmacy worldwide.

Dr Virginia Olmos
FIP vice president



This year's WHA was a milestone for the FIP, with the largest and most diverse delegation yet, bringing pharmacy into every major health conversation, reflecting how far the profession has come in strengthening its voice and influence on this global stage. What once required persistent advocacy to secure a seat at the table has evolved into meaningful, consistent engagement across the agenda. The collective presence, expertise, and unity of the FIP delegation demonstrated FIP's growing impact on global health policy and its commitment to advancing pharmacy worldwide.

Mr Sherif Guorgui
FIP Community Pharmacy Section president



The WHA is an exceptional forum for engaging with global decision makers and the commissions shaping pharmacy services worldwide. Both formal sessions and informal encounters create real opportunities to build influence and strengthen long-term relationships. Throughout the week, the FIP team supported us flawlessly, providing every tool, resource and connection we needed to deliver meaningful impact.

Mr Martin Astbury
Pharmacists' Defence Association



Representing the Turkish Pharmacists' Association at WHA79 was a valuable opportunity to strengthen the voice of pharmacists within the global health agenda. FIP's leadership and advocacy created an effective platform for engaging with international stakeholders, highlighting the indispensable role of pharmacists in advancing universal health coverage, improving access to medicines, and supporting sustainable health systems.

WHA79 once again demonstrated that addressing global health challenges requires stronger collaboration between governments, health professionals, and international organisations. The exchange of experiences among FIP member organisations reinforced our commitment to innovation, professional solidarity, and evidence-based policies that will shape the future of pharmacy and improve patient care worldwide.

Mr Taner Ercanli
Turkish Pharmacists' Association



Serving as an FIP delegate at the 79th WHA was an inspiring opportunity to represent both the global pharmacy profession and Taiwan while engaging with WHO leadership, the WHO Civil Society Commission, and partners across the global health community.

Through FIP, I contributed to discussions on medication supply resilience, health equity, climate and health, and meaningful youth engagement, while collaborating with the Young WFPHA and the Health Diplomacy Youth Network to strengthen cross-sector partnerships. Meeting the WHO Director-General and witnessing FIP's active engagement reaffirmed that pharmacists are indispensable partners in advancing resilient health systems, evidence-informed policy, and universal health coverage. I am proud that FIP continues to amplify the voice of pharmacy in global health and empower the next generation of leaders to transform policy into action.

Mr Ching-Hsun "Walter" Liu
FIP Early Career Pharmaceutical Group (ECPG)



The FIP has made an incredible commitment at the WHA in Geneva and at its associated sessions. With all members from every corner of the globe coming together for this event, the FIP is able to effectively deliver its key messages in every session and position pharmacy at the forefront across all domains. Additionally, the exchanges among us have been so enriching. A true highlight of the year!

Dr Martine Ruggli
Swiss Pharmacists Association



There are moments in a career that make you pause and appreciate how far the profession has come. Participating in the WHA as part of the FIP delegation was one of those moments. Walking into rooms where global health policy is shaped, I felt both profound gratitude and responsibility—to represent pharmacy, to contribute thoughtfully, and to ensure our profession's voice was heard. What stayed with me most was the realisation that pharmacists around the world share common goals despite practising in very different environments. The experience was energising, affirming, and a powerful reminder of the impact our profession can have on global health.

Prof. Jill Kolesar
University of Iowa



My attendance at WHA79 as a first-time participant, an official FIP Delegate, and the International Partnerships Lead of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana was an unforgettable and deeply rewarding experience. I was inspired by the opportunity to engage with global health leaders whom I may never have otherwise met, contribute to meaningful conversations, and build valuable connections with pharmacy professionals and other stakeholders from around the world. I am sincerely grateful to FIP and the Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana for entrusting me with the opportunity to represent Ghana. This experience broadened my perspective, strengthened my passion for global health partnerships, and reaffirmed my commitment to advancing the pharmacy profession and improving health outcomes through collaboration. I left Geneva inspired, energized, and challenged to do more by working with key stakeholders to turn the conversations initiated at WHA79 into meaningful action. Representing the Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana and FIP on this global platform was truly an honour and a privilege. Thank you, FIP, for this incredible opportunity.

I look forward to doing this again together.

Ms Akua Frimpomaa Darkwah
Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana



I want to express my gratitude to FIP for including the Early Career Pharmaceutical Group (ECPG) in the highest-level decision-making body. I am deeply grateful to have gained this experience and am inspired to continue to let the early career voices be heard when advocating for global health for all. Sitting behind a microphone in a room full of Member State delegations was both an empowering and humbling experience. It was also a reminder of the responsibility I had to represent over 5.5 million pharmacists, pharmacy educators and pharmaceutical scientists worldwide. Special thanks to the FIP team, Dr Mariet Eksteen, Dr Ozge Ozer and Dr Aysu Selçuk, for guiding us in the preparations of the statements and the 79th WHA.

Ms Clara Mayunga
FIP Early Career Pharmaceutical Group (ECPG)



Returning to WHA has given me a unique perspective on how far our profession has come. It has been inspiring to witness the remarkable progress of FIP in strengthening the voice of pharmacy and ensuring that pharmacists are recognised as essential partners in advancing global health. Through FIP's engagement at WHA79, I had the opportunity to learn from passionate leaders who are transforming ideas into meaningful action, while also reflecting on how we, as pharmacists, can contribute even more to improving health outcomes. Equally important, being a member of FIP's delegation provided a valuable platform for strengthening engagement with the Indonesian government delegation and for discussing Indonesia's role and priorities in the global health agenda. My experience at WHA79 reaffirmed that when pharmacists speak with one voice and work together across borders, we can make a meaningful impact on the future of global health.

Ms Audrey Clarissa
Indonesian Pharmaceutical Association



My experience with the FIP delegation at WHA79 was unforgettable and multifaceted. It confirmed the immense potential of pharmacists within healthcare teams, while recognising the challenge of positioning these professionals to ensure their voices are valued globally. Furthermore, the collaborative effort driving the 'One Health' approach must overcome inequality gaps across diverse global healthcare systems. As a Mexican delegate, I appreciated the international calibre of each conference and symposium. This experience motivates me to continue elevating the pharmacist's role in the vital mission of providing better healthcare conditions and well-being for humanity.

Dr Angélica Meneses Acosta
Mexican Pharmaceutical Association

1.3 The FIP welcome supper

All delegates were invited to a welcome supper. This took place on 17 May 2026 at 7pm at Café du Soleil Genève. The purpose of this event was, firstly, to provide an opportunity for delegates representing FIP constituencies and organisations in membership to get to know each other, and the FIP Board members and team. This networking opportunity is crucial for delegates to learn from one another, foster relationships, and explore future collaboration possibilities.

During the meet-and-greet, a set of twelve advocacy postcards, highlighting unique contributions made by pharmacists, based on data and evidence, with relevant references, was distributed to delegates. The postcards were developed based on [FIP Global Situational Report on Pharmacy](#).



FIP delegates network while enjoying the welcome supper.

2 FIP interventions at WHA79

The participation of FIP at the 79th WHA was marked by a series of impactful statements that reflected FIP's commitment to advancing pharmacists' contributions to addressing global health priorities. These statements included both individual statements, where FIP representatives presented FIP's perspective on specific agenda items, and constituency statements, which involved collaborative efforts with partner organisations and alliances.

In this section, we highlight the statements delivered by FIP at WHA79 and their relevance to our FIP priority programmes (Tables 2 and 3).

2.1 Constituency statements

Table 2. FIP-WHA79 constituency statements

	Agenda item	Alignment to FIP Priority Programme(s) and Strategic Plan 2025-2030
1	Agenda item 12.8 Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel	Multinational needs assessment and surveillance programme Strengthening pharmaceutical care and workforce
2	Agenda item 12.10 Harmonization of regulatory approaches, governance and standards for data, digital health and artificial intelligence in the health sector	Primary health care programme Strengthening pharmaceutical care and workforce
3	Agenda item 15.5 Draft strategy on the economics of health for all	Primary health care programme Strengthening pharmaceutical care and workforce

2.2 Individual statements

Table 3. FIP-WHA79 individual statements

	Agenda item	Alignment to FIP Priority Programme(s) Strategic Plan 2025-2030
1	Agenda item 12.3 Communicable diseases - Immunization Agenda 2030	Non-communicable diseases programme (NCDs) Person-centred pharmaceutical care and well-being
2	Agenda item 14.2 Strengthening the evidence base for public health and social measures	Disease prevention programme Person-centred pharmaceutical care and well-being
3	Agenda item 12.2 Mental health	Non-communicable diseases programme (NCDs) Person-centred pharmaceutical care and well-being
4	Agenda item 12.4 Universal health coverage	Primary health care programme Access to medicines and health services & Person-centred pharmaceutical care and well-being
5	Agenda item 12.7 Substandard and falsified medical products, 12.9 Draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance	Antimicrobial stewardship programme & Patient safety programme Access to medicines and health services & Person-centred pharmaceutical care and well-being
6	Agenda item 12.6 Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Primary health care programme & Multinational needs assessment and surveillance programme Access to medicines and health services

Pictured below are the FIP official delegates as they deliver their individual statements on behalf of FIP during the WHA79.



Mariet Eksteen delivering FIP's statement on *Communicable diseases - Immunisation Agenda 2030*



Aysu Selçuk delivering FIP's statement on *Mental Health*



Emily Sika delivering FIP's statement on *UHC*



Clara Mayunga delivering FIP's statement on *Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*



Yifan Zhou delivering WHPA's statement on *Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel*

3 WHA side events

3.1 The FIP side events

3.3.1 FIP side event on self-care and primary health care

On Monday, 18 May 2026, FIP organised a side event in collaboration with Opella at the IFRC headquarters in Geneva. The event was titled “Self-care essential for PHC: Pharmacists critical for self-care and Universal Health Coverage”.

The side event brought together speakers from FIP, Opella, EOP and WHO to discuss the global health and policy impact of self-care, demonstrating how pharmacy workforce integration can support the implementation of the WHO Framework on self-care, and that pharmacy can support these policies with partners across all sectors.

The event was opened by Mr Paul Sinclair, FIP president, followed by scene-setting remarks from Dr Catherine Duggan, FIP CEO, who presented the importance of scaling up self-care as part of global efforts to strengthen PHC. She shared how FIP member organisations (MOs) are delivering self-care and a snapshot of FIP survey findings on self-care.

The programme included a presentation by Manjulaa Narasimhan, a scientist in the Department of Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Child, Adolescent, Aging Health and Research at the WHO, on “The global policy context of self-care and its impact on PHC”. Her contribution highlighted the WHO Conceptual Framework on Self-Care and the importance of self-care interventions across all countries and economic settings as a critical pathway to achieving UHC, promoting health, enhancing global health security, and serving vulnerable populations.

Josephine Fubara, Chief Science Officer, Opella, spoke on “Self-care only works when we work together: Delivering of self-care through collaboration”, sharing insights on existing misinformation on social media and how pharmacists lead self-care.

Wael Ali, EOP president and FIP Eastern Mediterranean Regional Pharmaceutical Forum president contributed on “Pharmacists delivering self-care in collaboration with patients”. His remarks focused on health literacy crises, how pharmacists are strengthening healthcare systems worldwide, and patient perspectives.

Marianne Ivey, FIP vice president, led the panel discussion. During the panel discussion, participants explored the role of pharmacists and other healthcare professionals in ensuring that self-care remains safe, evidence-based, accessible, and equitable for all populations. The discussion also focused on how pharmacists can support patients with varying levels of health literacy to effectively engage in self-care, and how the successful integration of self-care into PHC can be measured. The session featured active engagement from both panellists and participants, fostering a rich exchange of perspectives and experiences.



The FIP president and CEO share their opening remarks at the FIP side event

The side event reinforced the growing role of pharmacists in self-care and PHC, highlighting how the integration of the pharmacy workforce into PHC can strengthen health literacy, promote self-care, and improve health outcomes.

3.3.2 FIP side event on humanitarian action and access to medicines

On Tuesday, 19 May 2026, FIP organised a side event in collaboration with the IFRC at the IFRC headquarters in Geneva. The event was titled “Addressing the impact of complex crises on global health through safe and sustainable access to medicines and strengthening pharmaceutical contributions to humanitarian action”. The side event brought together speakers from FIP, IFRC and WHO to discuss the role of pharmacy and pharmaceutical systems in strengthening emergency preparedness, ensuring access to medicines, and supporting resilient and coordinated health system responses in humanitarian and crisis settings.

The event was opened by Mr Paul Sinclair, FIP president, followed by scene-setting remarks from Dr Catherine Duggan, FIP CEO, who highlighted FIP’s work in humanitarian action, emergency preparedness, access to medicines, and the role of pharmacists in supporting health system resilience.

The programme included a presentation by Rodrigo Cataldi, technical officer and technical lead on access to medicines in WHO’s NCDs and mental health department, on “Emergency preparedness and health systems: Global emergency frameworks and policy context”. His contribution addressed current global trends, WHO priorities, and the need for resilient, coordinated and responsive health systems during crises.

Petra Khoury, global director for health and care at IFRC, spoke on “Health system resilience and response”, sharing insights on strengthening health system resilience, coordinated emergency response, and ensuring continuity of care during crises.

Cecile Terraz, director for global humanitarian services and supply chain management at IFRC, contributed on “Securing medicine supply chains and quality in emergencies and complex settings”. Her remarks focused on strengthening supply chain resilience, ensuring safe and quality-assured medicine distribution, and addressing the impact of climate-related factors on medicine stability and expiry.

Raquel Martínez García, FIP vice president and secretary general of the General Pharmaceutical Council of Spain, presented on “National to global learning: Pharmacy response in emergencies”. She shared lessons from Spain’s experience and highlighted the importance of pharmacy leadership, national preparedness, and cross-sector collaboration in emergency response.

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion titled “Strengthening emergency preparedness through pharmacy and partnerships”, moderated by Robert Moss, FIP vice president. The discussion explored the contribution of pharmacists and pharmaceutical systems to emergency preparedness, continuity of care, medicine access, supply chain resilience, and partnerships across health, humanitarian and policy sectors.

The side event reinforced the importance of integrating pharmacy into emergency preparedness and response frameworks and highlighted the value of collaboration between FIP, IFRC, WHO and national pharmacy organisations to support safe and sustainable access to medicines in complex crises.



The FIP CEO shares her opening remarks at the FIP side event

3.3.3 FIP side event on tobacco cessation

FIP's third side event took place on Wednesday, 20 May 2026, at Hotel Royal, titled "Implementing the WHO FCTC and wider NCD prevention targets by integrating the pharmacy workforce". This event was supported by unrestricted funding from Kenvue.

This event included speakers from WHO, FCTC and FIP to discuss how the pharmacy workforce can assist with the FCTC implementation, leading to achieving wider NCD prevention targets. The objectives of the session were to:

- Highlight the importance of scaling up tobacco cessation as part of global NCD prevention strategies.
- Discuss how pharmacists and the wider pharmacy workforce can support the implementation of evidence-based tobacco cessation interventions.
- Share practical approaches to integrating tobacco cessation services within PHC and community settings.
- Identify policy and system-level actions to strengthen pharmacy-led cessation initiatives globally.

The event was opened by Dr Catherine Duggan, FIP CEO, showcasing the global burden of tobacco and the impact of tobacco on NCDs. Globally, both the WHO and the UN have strong commitments towards tobacco cessation through the WHO FCTC and the 2025 UN Political Declaration on NCDs. Over the years, FIP has shown professional leadership when it launched a holding statement on the use of electronic cigarettes in 2023, the WHO and FIP joint statement on the role of pharmacists in tobacco cessation in 2024, and the adoption of the FIP Statement of Policy on the role of pharmacists in establishing a future free from tobacco and nicotine dependence, also in 2024.

Dr Hebe Gouda is a technical officer for the Tobacco Free Initiative, Department of Health Prevention and Promotion at WHO. She discussed progress in tobacco control and tobacco cessation. It has been reported that only 31% of the world's population has access to comprehensive tobacco cessation services. When asked, only 50% of tobacco users reported that they had received brief advice through PHC. Dr Gouda ended with a strong call for action to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians: if each pharmacist reaches one smoker every working day for three years, close to 100 million smokers will quit during this period.

Dr Tibor Szilagyi, Team lead for reporting and knowledge management at the FCTC secretariat, discussed the role of pharmacists in tobacco cessation. The WHO FCTC is an evidence-based international public health treaty developed by governments which reflects a holistic, intersectoral, whole-of-government approach. Dr Szilagyi provided an overview of the relevant articles of the convention that could be linked to the work of pharmacists. He also shared excerpts from the 2025 global progress report on progress made by parties. He concluded by highlighting that health workers, including pharmacists, are role models and have a particular responsibility to set a good example in this respect. Those who use tobacco amongst them should be offered and provided programmes to quit.

In the presentation that followed, FIP vice presidents Luís Lourenço and John Pieper shared a summary of FIP's work on NCDs and tobacco cessation. Specific mention was made of FIP's Practice Transformation Programme on NCDs, digital events, and publications. FIP's presence at the 11th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the WHO FCTC included a statement delivered by FIP vice president Daragh Connolly in November 2025. A new CPD Bite series titled "Supporting tobacco cessation: FIP CPD Bites series for pharmacists" commenced with the launch of the first episode during this session. Titled "Understanding the impact of second- and third-hand tobacco exposure on family members", this first episode focuses on an important yet often overlooked dimension of tobacco-related harm, with direct relevance to pharmacy practice.

An industry perspective was shared by Dr Roshan Varghese, Medical Affairs lead for smoking cessation at Kenvue. Research overwhelmingly shows the need for reassurance, advice and support, indicating that the role of the pharmacist is critical to success. However, he also warned that the use of vape products produces an increased threat to smoking cessation, as adolescents are nine times more likely to vape than adults.

The session concluded with a case study from Uruguay. Dr Virginia Olmos, FIP vice president and president of the Uruguayan Association of Chemistry and Pharmacy, reported that in 2006, Uruguay became the first smoke-free country in Latin America and one of the first in the world. This meant banning smoking in enclosed public spaces and workplaces, which represented a major cultural change. It also helped protect non-smokers

from second-hand smoke and reinforced the message that tobacco control is a public health priority. Among adolescents, Uruguay also saw a very important reduction in cigarette consumption. However, prevention among young people must remain a priority. The increase in the average age of initiation is positive, but continued education and prevention strategies are essential, especially to avoid new forms of nicotine dependence.

The session concluded with the strong message that pharmacists can play an active role at different moments of the cessation process. They can ask routinely about tobacco use, communicate risks in a clear and empathetic way, assess motivation to quit, and support structured programmes. This contribution is important because repeated, accessible and trusted interactions can make a real difference in patient outcomes.



Speakers at FIP's third side event on tobacco control. In front, from left to right, are Dr Cathering Duggan, FIP CEO, and Dr Hebe Gouda, WHO. At the back, from left to right, are Dr Roshan Varghese, Kenvue, Dr Virginia Olmos, Uruguayan Association of Chemistry and Pharmacy, Prof. John Pieper, FIP vice president, Dr Tibor Szilagyi, WHO FCTC, and Luís Lourenço, FIP vice president.



At each of FIP's side events, attendees received a complimentary packet of Dutch Speculaas biscuits, each branded in FIP's Think Self-care Think Pharmacy campaign.

3.2 FIP collaborative side events

Table 4. FIP co-organised side events

	Title, organiser and date	Topic and/or summary	Images
1	19 May 2026 Global Forum on Pharmaceutical Supply Resilience Strategy Organiser: TSHP	FIP was represented by Paul Sinclair, Robert Moss and Marianne Ivey. The session focused on global strategies for enhancing medicine supply stability. FIP's contribution highlighted the federation's work on access to medicines, relevant FIP priority programmes and development goals, and the role of pharmacists in supporting affordability, availability, quality, safety and responsible use of medicines. The speech also emphasised pharmacists' role in identifying and managing medicine shortages, supporting continuity of care during supply disruptions, and strengthening supply chain resilience, with insights shared from Australia.	  
2	20 May 2026 Advancing Universal Health Coverage: Learning from Experts, Inspiring Future Health Leaders Organisers: IPSF and Sigma Nursing	FIP was represented by Sherif Guorgui. The side event focused on advancing Universal Health Coverage by strengthening youth engagement, health systems, equitable access, sustainable healthcare financing and effective service delivery. His contribution highlighted pharmacy-based vaccination as an important pathway to achieving UHC, emphasising the role of pharmacists in primary healthcare, life-course immunisation, health literacy, access to medicines and preventive care. The speech also showcased FIP's advocacy on expanding pharmacists' roles in vaccination promotion and administration, and reinforced the importance of integrating pharmacy services into people-centred, equitable and sustainable health systems.	 

3.3 FIP's contribution to other side events

In addition to FIP-led side events during WHA79, FIP representatives contributed to, supported, or were identified to contribute to several side events organised by partner organisations and external stakeholders. These engagements provided opportunities to strengthen pharmacy's visibility and contribution across key global health areas, including self-care, antimicrobial resistance, medicine supply and access, health workforce investment, HPV vaccination, migraine, and traditional medicine.

A summary of FIP's contribution to other side events is provided in the table.

Table 5. FIP's contribution to side events

Date, title, and organiser	Summary
18 May 2026 Self-care for the Prevention of Infection as a Frontline Tool Against AMR Organisers: Global Self-Care Federation, Reckitt, The Global Respiratory Infection Partnership (GRIP) and the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA)	FIP was represented by Sherif Guorgui and Jack Shen Lim. The discussion focused on self-care as a frontline tool against antimicrobial resistance, highlighting the role of community pharmacists in infection prevention and control, antimicrobial stewardship, public education, and responsible self-care. FIP's contribution emphasised the importance of strengthening pharmacy education, improving public trust and behaviour change, combatting misinformation, and ensuring that self-care complements timely access to appropriate clinical care. 
19 May 2026 Self-care and men: A critical gap in health policy and practice: How including men in self-care policy and practice can achieve better health outcomes for all Organisers: Global Action on Men's Health (GAMH), Global Self-care Federation (GSCF) and Opella	FIP was represented by Daragh Connolly and Luís Lourenço. The discussion focused on the importance of including men in self-care policy and practice to support better health outcomes. FIP's contribution highlighted the role of community pharmacy as an accessible and trusted entry point for men's health, including prevention, early detection, health literacy, behaviour change, sensitive counselling, and timely referral. The speech also emphasised the need to better integrate community pharmacy into men's health strategies and self-care frameworks. 
19 May 2026	FIP was represented by Catherine Duggan and Virginia Olmos. The side event focused on the importance of investing in health

Date, title, and organiser	Summary
Health Is Wealth: Why Investing in Health Professionals Pays Off Organiser: World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA), FIP is a founding member of the alliance which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2024.	professionals as a foundation for stronger health systems, patient safety, quality of care and economic stability. Catherine Duggan moderated the event and introduced the discussion on reframing health expenditure as an investment rather than a cost. Virginia Olmos contributed from the FIP perspective, highlighting the economics of patient safety and the essential role of pharmacists and other health professionals in preventing harm, improving medicine use, reducing avoidable healthcare costs, and supporting sustainable health systems. Yifan Zhou responded with an early career perspective.  
20 May 2026 WHA79 Breakfast Dialogue on Global HPV Vaccination Strategy post-2030 Organisers: Global Action on Men's Health and NOMAN is an Island: Race to End HPV	FIP was represented by Daragh Connolly and Robert Moss. The dialogue focused on the future of global HPV vaccination strategy beyond 2030, including the case for routine universal, gender-neutral HPV vaccination. FIP's contribution highlighted the role of pharmacists and the pharmacy workforce in improving vaccination coverage, addressing vaccine hesitancy and misinformation, supporting life-course immunisation, and ensuring equitable access to HPV vaccination services for all genders. The speech also emphasised pharmacy's role in public education, integrated immunisation systems, and collaboration with global partners to advance sustainable vaccination strategies.  
20 May 2026 Migraine Matters: Uniting to Elevate Migraine on the Global Health Agenda Organiser: European Migraine and Headache Alliance	FIP was represented by Mark Koziol and Silvana Neir Leite. The roundtable focused on elevating migraine on the global health agenda and addressing gaps between available health technologies and patient access through existing health system pathways. FIP's contribution highlighted the role of pharmacists as accessible first points of contact for people living with migraine, supporting earlier recognition, responsible over-the-counter pain management, prevention of medication overuse headache, health literacy, and timely referral. Their speech also emphasised the need for integrated care pathways, interprofessional collaboration, and stronger inclusion of pharmacists in strategies to improve equitable, people-centred migraine care.

Date, title, and organiser	Summary
	
20 May 2026 Roundtable High Level on Self-Care Organiser: Global Self-Care Federation	FIP was represented by Nadia Al Mazrouei and Luís Lourenço. The high-level roundtable focused on the role of self-care in strengthening prevention and supporting sustainable health systems. FIP's contribution highlighted the role of pharmacists as accessible and trusted healthcare professionals who support safe and effective self-care across common conditions, including oral health, tobacco cessation, sun protection, hygiene and disinfection, sexual and reproductive health, insect repellents, and appropriate use of antimicrobial creams. The intervention also emphasised FIP's work in pharmacist empowerment, health literacy, professional guidance, self-management, digital tools, and the need to recognise pharmacies for self-care services, screening and health promotion. 
20 May 2026 Round Table on Health Workforce at WHA 2026: Sustaining Health Workforce as a Global Health Priority Organiser: World Medical Association (WMA)	This session was attended by Mariet Eksteen and Aysu Selçuk from the FIP team. This closed-door round table discussion aimed to open the discussion around aligning health worker stakeholders with health professionals in preparation for the 2027 UN high-level meeting on UHC. This initial discussion aimed to establish an informal network of interested stakeholders committed to sustained advocacy for the health workforce, and discussions will continue post-WHA. 
21 May 2026 From Vision to Action: A Holistic Approach to Metabolic Health and NCD Prevention and Care	Marianne Ivey represented the FIP Board by delivering an opening address. This event focused on Metabolic Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD), which, despite its strong links to metabolic syndrome, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and obesity, remains significantly underdiagnosed and undertreated. The opportunity for early intervention—before progression to more

Date, title, and organiser	Summary
Organiser: European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) Healthy Livers Healthy Lives, Opella	advanced stages—is substantial yet widely missed. This is precisely where pharmacists could play a critical role. As one of the most accessible healthcare professionals, pharmacists are often the first point of contact for individuals with metabolic risk factors who do not yet identify as patients. Their role in awareness-raising, early identification, and referral is both highly scalable and essential to closing the current care gap. 
21 May 2026 High-level roundtable on self-care, universal health coverage (UHC) and financing development: Advancing practical pathways for countries Organiser: Bayer, the UN University - Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR), and the Government of Egypt, and in partnership with the Global Self-Care Federation (GSCF) and Diplomatic Courier	John Pieper participated in this side event on behalf of the FIP Board. The roundtable brought together stakeholders engaged in global health, UHC, and financing development policy to discuss how self-care can be positioned as a practical contributor to UHC and the UN-led framework “Financing for Development (FfD)” implementation. The session further focused on how countries develop economic and financing narratives that guide decision-making about the integration of self-care into national strategies. 
22 May 2026 Adult Immunization Policy Advisory Board Meeting Organiser: International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA)	FIP was represented by Ozge Ozer and Yifan Zhou. The meeting focused on improving adult immunisation uptake, including the shared challenges of ageing populations, non-communicable diseases, vaccine-preventable disease prevention, and barriers to adult vaccination. FIP contributed to the discussion by sharing information on pharmacy-based vaccination and the important role of pharmacists in improving vaccine access, health literacy, public trust, and timely delivery of immunisation services. The roundtable discussion also highlighted how pharmacists can support adult vaccination strategies by helping to identify eligible individuals, address hesitancy, and strengthen prevention through accessible community-based care.



Date, title, and organiser	Summary
	 A photograph showing two women seated at a long table during a conference. The woman on the left has long dark hair and is wearing a grey blazer. The woman on the right has dark curly hair and is wearing a plaid jacket. Both are looking towards the right side of the frame. On the table in front of them are two laptops (one silver, one pink), a water bottle, a glass, and a tissue box. The background is a plain light-colored wall.

3.4 FIP advocacy through engagement with Ministries of Health

Advocacy through active engagement with the Ministry of Health is essential to influence policy, secure support for sustainable solutions for pharmacy, and ensure that our needs are heard and prioritised in national health strategies. Therefore, FIP consistently seeks opportunities to engage with Ministries of Health and other key partners. WHA is a perfect event for such opportunities.



FIP vice presidents John Pieper (centre) and Marianne Ivey (right) with Dr Khaled Abdel-Ghaffar (left), Minister of Health and Population, Egypt



Jack Lim Shen, Malaysian Pharmacists Society (right), with Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad (left), Minister of Health, Malaysia



Audrey Clarissa, Indonesian Pharmacists Association (right), with Budi Gunadi Sadikin (left), Minister of Health, Indonesia



Robert Moss, FIP vice president (right), with Dr Teodoro J. Herbosa (left), 30th Secretary of Health of the Philippines



Mark Koziol, Pharmacy Defence Association (left), with Prof. Alba Al-Alfy (right), Deputy Minister of Health and Populations, Egypt



Marianne Ivey, FIP vice president (left), with Dr Abba Al-Alfy (right), Deputy Minister of Health and Population, Egypt



Akua Frimpomaa Darkwah, Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana (right), handing FIP advocacy postcards to Dr Victor Asare Bampoe (left), CEO of the Ghana National Health Insurance Authority



Denis O'Driscoll, Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (left), with Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge (right), WHO Regional Director for Europe



Audrey Clarissa, Indonesian Pharmacists Association (left), and Paul Sinclair, FIP president (right), with Dr Rizka Andalucia (centre), Director-General for Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices, The Republic of Indonesia



Richard Neci, Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (left), with Hon. Aden Duale (right), Cabinet Secretary of Health, Kenya



Dr Nadia Al Mazrouei, FIP vice president (right), with Dr Mohamed Hassani (left), Assistant Minister for Public Health Initiatives, Egypt



Yifan Zhou (left), Emily Sika (second from left) and Clara Mayunga (right) representing the Early Career Pharmaceutical Group (ECPG), with Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General (second from right)



Denis O'Driscoll, Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (right), with Prof. Alex Dadoo (left), Senior Advisor to the Director-General, African Medicines Agency and President Emeritus, African Organisation for Standardisation



Ching-Hsun Walter Liu, Early Career Pharmaceutical Group (left), next to Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (right), WHO Director-General, during a side event organised by the WHO Youth Council.



Paul Sinclair (7th from left), FIP president, with Chung-Liang Shih (8th from left), Minister of Health and Welfare, China Taiwan, accompanied by FIP vice presidents Nadia Al Mazrouei (3rd from left), Marianne Ivey (11th from left) and Robert Moss (12th from left) and FIP delegates Jack Shen Lim (1st from left), Suvit Teerakulchon (2nd from left) and Hui-Chen Su (4th from left).

3.5 FIP advocacy through engagement with key stakeholders

FIP delegates participated in over 80 side events at WHA79, actively advocating for the vital role of pharmacists in health systems. As well as attending, connecting and networking is also important to build connections and collaborations. The delegation was hard at work to connect with key stakeholders at WHA79.



Robert Moss, FIP vice president (right), with Devora Kestel (left), WHO Director for non-communicable diseases (NCD) and mental health, attending the Implementing the 2025 Political Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health in an Era of Global Health Reform side event



Marianne Ivey, FIP vice president (right), with Dr Manjulaa Narasimhan (left), WHO Lead, Self-care for Health and Well-being



Dr Nadia Al Mazoureuai, FIP vice president (centre), with Dr Michel Buchmann (left), FIP honorary president, and Carola van der Hoeft (right), FIP COO and Congress Director, attending a side event on Advancing self-care for Universal Health Coverage



Paul Sinclair (left), FIP president, and Catherine Duggan (right), FIP CEO, with Dr Oleg Klimov (centre), Head of the Board of the NGO All Ukrainian Pharmaceutical Chamber.



Members of the FIP delegation at the reception following FIP's first side event, titled Self-care essential for PHC: Pharmacists critical for self-care and Universal Health Coverage



Paul Sinclair (second from left), FIP president, and Catherine Duggan (third from left), FIP CEO, together with Pascal Tshisekedi Tshibangu (left), Deputy General Secretary, Ordre des Pharmaciens du R.D. du Congo, and Richard Neci (right), Executive Director, Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN)



Robert Moss, FIP vice president (right), with Sameer Pujari, WHO AI Lead



Paul Sinclair, FIP president, attending the World Health Summit to build relationships and network for FIP to be present at the WHS in October 2026



Silvana Naite Leite representing pharmacy at an official side event on Call to action for advancing biomanufacturing self-reliance: From policy to practice in local manufacturing



Jack Shen Lim (left), Malaysian Pharmacists Society, with Mariet Eksteen (right), FIP head of advocacy, communications and marketing, visiting Pharmacie Bedat, which belonged to André Bédât, FIP president from 1987 to 1986. The pharmacy is now owned by his son, also André Bédât.



Jonans Tussimire, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda (right), with Dr Deus Mubangizi, Director of Health Products Policy and Standards, WHO



Delegates from the Mexican Pharmaceutical Association, Angelica Meneses, Former president (left), and Jose Maria Garcia Valdecases, president (centre), together with Amandeep Doll, Royal College of Pharmacy (right), attending a side event on behalf of pharmacy

3.6 Key summary notes from the side events

During the 79th WHA, FIP delegates actively participated in over 80 side events, contributing to high-level discussions on global health priorities. These sessions provided critical opportunities to advocate for the role of pharmacists and highlight their contributions to achieving universal health coverage and strengthening health systems. FIP's active presence ensured that the pharmacy profession was represented in a wide range of discussions, reinforcing our commitment to advancing global health through innovation, collaboration, and advocacy.

Table 6. Key takeaways from the side events

Date	Event name	Key takeaways
17 May 2026	Introduction to the 79th WHA: Can global health make progress amid rupture?	The opening discussion of WHA79 highlighted that global health is at a critical turning point, shaped by geopolitical tensions, financial constraints, evolving partnerships, and increasing expectations for country self-reliance. Participants emphasised the need to move beyond the traditional concept of health systems toward a broader health ecosystem approach, recognising that health outcomes are influenced not only by healthcare services but also by a network of actors including governments, communities, civil society, academia, the private sector, and sectors such as education, environment, and technology. While numerous global health reform initiatives have generated momentum, concerns were raised about fragmentation and the need for greater coherence, coordination, and alignment across efforts. Discussions underscored the importance of strengthening country ownership while maintaining international solidarity, fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders, and building resilient, equitable, and accountable health ecosystems. Ultimately, participants stressed that addressing complex global

Date	Event name	Key takeaways
		challenges such as health inequities, climate change, and future health emergencies will require not only technical solutions but also strong political commitment, effective diplomacy, shared accountability, and a renewed vision for global health governance.
18 May 2026	Smart financing and integrated care as pathways to people-centred universal health coverage	Building sustainable and resilient universal health coverage requires the integration of social and political considerations, with digitalisation serving as a key enabler of greater efficiency.
18 May 2026	Early detection of cardiovascular-renal-metabolic conditions: From silent to seen	Early screening of cardiovascular-renal-metabolic conditions helps to save lives. Pharmacists should play an active role in educating the general population about disease prevention, early detection, and appropriate management.
18 May 2026	Implementing the 2025 Political Declaration on NCDs and mental health in an era of global health reform	The event focused on translating global political commitments on NCDs and mental health into concrete, country-level action. Discussions emphasised the need to mobilise sustainable financing, accelerate implementation, strengthen accountability, and reshape the global architecture for NCD and mental health financing through coordinated action involving governments, international organisations, the private sector, civil society, and patients. Participants also highlighted the importance of addressing the social determinants of health, reducing health inequities, and strengthening integrated primary healthcare. The discussion underscored the need to move "from declaration to delivery" by implementing practical and measurable strategies to improve access to prevention, diagnostics, treatment, and care. It also highlighted the significant disparities between and within countries, ranging from access to healthy food, to ensuring access to food itself. Although pharmacists were not specifically recognised during the event, the discussions strongly aligned with the important role of pharmacists as members of primary healthcare teams in supporting NCD and mental health prevention and management, promoting health education, improving access to medicines, providing point-of-care testing and self-testing consultations, and advancing person-centred care.
18 May 2026	From gaps to gains: Delivering UHC through gender-responsive health systems	Significant global efforts are still needed to strengthen the prevention and management of NCDs and mental health.
18 May 2026	Locally led, globally scaled: The next phase of the Global Breast Cancer Initiative (GBCI)	The discussion highlighted the critical role of pharmacists in ensuring the safe delivery of oncology care and emphasised the importance of pharmacist expertise as an integral part of the multidisciplinary team. Participants also underscored the need to recognise and promote specialist pharmacy roles, supported by appropriate governance structures to ensure the safe and effective distribution and management of medicines.
19 May 2026	Harnessing AI and technology to advance nutritional care for children with non-communicable diseases	The event highlighted the potential of advanced technologies, including AI, to expand access to healthcare interventions, including nutritional care for children in underserved and remote areas. Participants emphasised that equitable access to AI-enabled health technologies is essential, noting that "AI without access is discrimination". The discussions also reinforced the importance of nutrition as a cornerstone of the prevention and management of NCDs. Strengthening multidisciplinary collaboration, including partnerships between pharmacists and nutritionists, was recognised as an important strategy to support person-centred care and improve health outcomes.
19 May 2026	Health is wealth: Why investing in health professionals pays off	The event underscored that investing in the health workforce is not merely a healthcare expenditure, but a long-term investment in stronger economies, resilient health systems, and improved patient outcomes. Participants highlighted that health systems should be

Date	Event name	Key takeaways
		viewed as a driver of economic prosperity, with recent global crises demonstrating the economic value of resilient healthcare systems. Discussions emphasised the need for adequate workforce planning, safe working conditions, interprofessional collaboration, and stronger links between evidence and policy. These messages are particularly relevant to the pharmacy profession, given the global shortage of pharmacists and the growing demand for their expertise in patient safety, multidisciplinary care, chronic disease management, and primary healthcare. Investing in pharmacy education, training, and workforce development was recognised as essential not only for improving healthcare quality and patient well-being but also for supporting economic resilience and sustainable health systems.
20 May 2026	Online safety: Artificial intelligence, social media and suicide prevention	The two-part event explored the opportunities and challenges of AI in healthcare alongside strategies to promote online safety and mental well-being, particularly among children and young people. Discussions highlighted the importance of distinguishing AI tools used in clinical practice from general AI applications. AI was recognised as a valuable tool for analysing large datasets and supporting the early identification of individuals at risk of suicide; however, participants stressed that AI cannot replace the empathy, trust, and human connection required to provide effective mental health support. The event also emphasised that ensuring online safety is a shared responsibility involving families, caregivers, technology companies, internet providers, policymakers, and communities. Participants noted the need for age-appropriate approaches that support individuals throughout childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood. The discussions highlighted the important role of pharmacists in promoting mental health awareness, identifying individuals at risk, signposting them to appropriate services, and mobilising community support as trusted and accessible healthcare professionals.
20 May 2026	Breakfast dialogue on global HPV vaccination strategy post-2030	The event highlighted the need to increase awareness of the health consequences of HPV infection beyond cervical cancer and to reduce the stigma associated with HPV-related cancers. Participants emphasised the importance of gender-neutral HPV vaccination programmes to ensure equitable protection for both girls and boys. The discussions reinforced the significant role of pharmacists in improving public awareness, addressing vaccine hesitancy, providing evidence-based education, and supporting the delivery of HPV vaccination programmes to increase vaccine uptake and contribute to cancer prevention.
20 May 2026	Delivering the road map for chronic respiratory disease care	The event focused on advancing the implementation of the global road map for chronic respiratory disease care, with discussions centred on strengthening prevention, early diagnosis, equitable access to treatment, and integrated long-term management of conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Participants emphasised the importance of strong primary healthcare systems, multidisciplinary collaboration, person-centred care, and supportive public health policies to reduce the global burden of chronic respiratory diseases. Although the role of pharmacists was not explicitly addressed during the session, a follow-up discussion with one of the organisers indicated that the integration of community pharmacy into future chronic respiratory disease care strategies and integrated care models is currently under consideration. This represents an important opportunity to strengthen recognition of pharmacists' contributions to disease

Date	Event name	Key takeaways
		prevention, early detection, patient education, adherence support, and the long-term management of chronic respiratory diseases.
20 May 2026	Shaping the future of brain health: What it means for economic growth	The event highlighted brain health as a critical investment for both population well-being and economic development. Discussions emphasised that promoting brain health and preventing, detecting, and effectively managing neurological and mental health conditions can contribute to healthier ageing populations, increased workforce productivity, stronger labour markets, greater innovation, and more sustainable economic growth. Participants noted that investing in neuroscience, brain health research, and the health workforce has the potential to stimulate job creation and drive economic development. Reducing the burden of conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, depression, and other neurological disorders can also lower long-term healthcare expenditures while improving quality of life. These discussions reinforce the important contribution of pharmacists in promoting brain health, supporting early detection and appropriate management, optimising medicines use, and providing ongoing care as part of multidisciplinary healthcare teams.
20 May 2026	NextGen x NowGen: Futureproofing health in the climate era	The session highlighted climate change as an urgent global health crisis with far-reaching implications for food security, infectious diseases, mental health, population displacement, and health system resilience. A central theme was the need to move beyond symbolic youth participation towards meaningful and institutionalised engagement in health governance and policy development. Discussions emphasised the importance of intergenerational collaboration, climate-resilient and digitally enabled health systems, community-led solutions, and international cooperation to address health inequities and strengthen pandemic preparedness. The discussions were highly relevant to the pharmacy profession, highlighting pharmacists' contributions to climate-resilient healthcare systems through disease prevention, public health preparedness, resilient medicine supply chains, health promotion, digital health, and equitable access to care. The event also reinforced the importance of empowering early-career healthcare professionals, including pharmacists, to actively contribute to climate-health policies and global health governance.
21 May 2026	Geneva Digital Health Day 2026 Track 1: NCDs & mental health	Digital transformation in health goes beyond technology and applications. It requires ethical and responsible use of data, stronger health systems, improved digital literacy, and effective governance. The failure of digital health systems in more than 40 countries highlights the importance of these elements. Multisectoral collaboration is essential to advance digital health and mental health agendas, particularly in the context of limited global funding for mental health, which remains below 2% of total health funding. Digital health can support the entire NCD care pathway, from prevention and early detection to follow-up, treatment adherence, and rehabilitation. Successful solutions should be inclusive, interoperable, secure, and human-centred. Country examples included national digital self-help applications, integrated NCD platforms, and remote rehabilitation services. These initiatives demonstrated the importance of embedding data within broader health systems to inform decision-making and policy development. Participants emphasised the need to position mental health as a development priority, build comprehensive digital mental health

Date	Event name	Key takeaways
		ecosystems, integrate clinical decision-support systems, and strengthen collaboration and knowledge-sharing across sectors. Adolescent mental health was highlighted as a key area for investment. Digital tools should be tailored to young people's needs, with particular attention to content quality, integration into existing systems, and effective implementation.
21 May 2026	Geneva Digital Health Day 2026 Track 2: Building resilient health systems in times of crisis	Climate change is increasingly affecting population health, particularly among individuals living with noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and other vulnerable groups. During the session, representatives from the space and global health community highlighted the role of satellite technologies in supporting the health sector before, during, and after disasters. By collecting and analysing geospatial data, satellites provide actionable insights that facilitate early warning systems, evidence-based policymaking, and the development of innovative digital health applications. These efforts rely on strong collaboration and interoperability among multiple agencies and stakeholders. Satellite-enabled technologies can also enhance access to healthcare services through e-health solutions, helping connect underserved populations with needed care. Moreover, satellite-based observation systems support early detection of environmental and health threats, strengthening preparedness, proactive risk management, and emergency response capacities. Despite these advances, significant challenges remain, including the need for integrated data systems, the closure of surveillance gaps, the use of advanced analytics to strengthen monitoring, and improved global coordination. The session also highlighted the value of geospatial artificial intelligence (AI) and Geographic Tracking Systems (GTS) in promoting health equity. These tools can generate detailed data on the distribution of poverty and other social determinants of health across regions, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Such information is critical for guiding targeted interventions, supporting immunisation programmes, and ensuring that resources are allocated to the populations most in need.
23 May 2026	Rethinking global health in a changing world	This side event highlighted that global health is undergoing a major transition driven by geopolitical shifts, constrained financing, and increasing fragmentation of traditional aid-dependent models. A central message was the need to move from donor dependency toward health sovereignty, through intentional, country-led and self-sustaining health systems capable of withstanding economic and political shocks. Within this transition, strategic philanthropy was framed as a catalytic tool to de-risk investments, bridge funding gaps, and strengthen domestic capacities rather than replace long-term public financing. Participants emphasised that achieving true health sovereignty also requires strengthening national regulatory systems to ensure safe, equitable, and reliable access to essential medicines and innovations. At the same time, the discussion underscored persistent fragmentation in global health governance and financing, which continues to hinder the translation of political commitments—particularly in areas such as noncommunicable diseases and mental health—into implementation. Overall, the session called for a more coherent, resilient, and integrated global health ecosystem that aligns financing, governance, and accountability to support sustainable and equitable health outcomes.

4 Highlights from the WHO-FIP meeting during WHA79

During WHA79, FIP held a high-level meeting with colleagues from the WHO at WHO headquarters in Geneva on 20 May 2026. The meeting provided an important opportunity to strengthen the long-standing collaboration between FIP and WHO, review shared priorities, and discuss areas for continued engagement under the FIP-WHO collaboration plan 2025–2027.

The meeting was attended by FIP president Mr Paul Sinclair, FIP CEO Dr Catherine Duggan, FIP vice presidents, and the FIP team, demonstrating the strong commitment of the FIP Board to advancing global collaboration with WHO and ensuring that the pharmacy profession is recognised as an essential part of the health workforce.

Discussions focused on shared priorities across workforce development, access to medicines, prevention, immunisation, patient safety, NCDs, substandard and falsified medicines, education, and the contribution of pharmacists to resilient and people-centred health systems. FIP also highlighted the importance of stronger recognition of pharmacists within global health workforce frameworks and the value of FIP's data, expertise and global network in supporting WHO priorities.

The meeting reaffirmed the importance of continued WHO-FIP engagement and identified opportunities to further strengthen collaboration across agreed areas of work. Follow-up will include continued coordination with relevant WHO colleagues, further discussion on priority actions, and a proposed follow-up meeting in approximately six months to review progress and maintain momentum.



The FIP Board meets with colleagues from WHO in Geneva

5 Aligning WHA79 actions with the FIP strategic plan, development goals and priority programmes

Several key actions, including FIP statements and participation in side events, were closely aligned with the FIP Strategic Plan 2025–2030, the FIP Development Goals (DGs), and FIP priority programmes, as indicated in table 7.

Table 7. Mapping WHA79 actions, strategic objectives, DGs and priority programmes

FIP Strategic Plan objectives 2025-2030	WHA Actions: statements and side events	Development Goals	Priority programmes
1. Access to medicines and health services	Statements: 12.4 Universal health coverage 12.6 Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 12.7 Substandard and falsified medical products 12.9 Draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance 15.5 Draft strategy on the economics of health for all Side events: - Addressing the impact of complex crises on global health through safe and sustainable access to medicines and strengthening pharmaceutical contributions to humanitarian action - International forum on medicine supply - Advancing universal health coverage: Learning from experts, inspiring future health leaders - Addressing the impact of complex crises on global health through safe and sustainable access to medicines and strengthening pharmaceutical contributions to humanitarian action - WHA79 breakfast dialogue on global HPV vaccination strategy post-2030	    	Primary health care programme; Multinational needs assessment and surveillance programme; Disease prevention programme; Antimicrobial stewardship programme; Patient safety programme
2. Person-centred pharmaceutical care and well-being	Statements: 12.2 Mental health 12.3 Communicable diseases - Immunization Agenda 2030 12.4 Universal health coverage 14.2 Strengthening the evidence base for public health and social measures 12.7 Substandard and falsified medical products 12.9 Draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance Side events: - Self-care essential for PHC: Pharmacists critical for self-care and universal health coverage	  	Non-communicable diseases programme (NCDs); Self-care & management of common ailments programme; Antimicrobial stewardship programme; Primary health care programme; Disease prevention programme

FIP Strategic Plan objectives 2025-2030	WHA Actions: statements and side events	Development Goals	Priority programmes
	- Implementing the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and wider NCD prevention targets by integrating the pharmacy workforce - Self-care for the prevention of infection as a frontline tool against AMR - Self-care and men: A critical gap in health policy and practice: how including men in self-care policy and practice can achieve better health outcomes for all - WHA70 breakfast dialogue on global HPV vaccination strategy post-2030 - Migraine matters: Uniting to elevate migraine on the global health agenda - Roundtable high level on self-care - Adult immunization policy advisory board meeting - Advancing universal health coverage: Learning from experts, inspiring future health leaders	   	
3. Innovation and Pharmaceutical Sciences	Statements: 12.10 Harmonization of regulatory approaches, governance and standards for data, digital health and artificial intelligence in the health sector Side events: - WHA79 breakfast dialogue on global HPV vaccination strategy post-2030	   	Primary health care programme; Multinational needs assessment and surveillance programme; Disease prevention programme
4. Strengthening pharmaceutical care and workforce	Statements: 12.2 Mental health 12.3 Communicable diseases - Immunization Agenda 2030 12.4 Universal health coverage 14.2 Strengthening the evidence base for public health and social measures 12.8 Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel 12.10 Harmonization of regulatory approaches, governance and standards for data, digital health and artificial intelligence in the health sector Side events: - Self-care essential for PHC: Pharmacists critical for self-care and Universal Health Coverage - Implementing the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and wider NCD prevention targets by integrating the pharmacy workforce - Health is wealth: Why investing in health professionals pays off - WHA79 breakfast dialogue on global HPV vaccination strategy post-2030 - Migraine matters: Uniting to elevate migraine on the global health agenda	  	Primary health care programme; Multinational needs assessment and surveillance programme; Non-communicable diseases programme (NCDs); Self-care & management of common ailments programme

FIP Strategic Plan objectives 2025-2030	WHA Actions: statements and side events	Development Goals	Priority programmes
	- Roundtable high level on self-care - Round table on health workforce at WHA 2026: Sustaining health workforce as a global health priority		
5. Development antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and a united for health approach	Statements: 12.9 Draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance Side events: - Self-care for the prevention of infection as a frontline tool against AMR	   	Antimicrobial stewardship programme; Patient safety programme
6. Leadership, governance, and global engagement	Statements: 12.6 Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 12.8 Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel 15.5 Draft strategy on the economics of health for all Side events: - Self-care and men: A critical gap in health policy and practice: How including men in self-care policy and practice can achieve better health outcomes for all - Adult Immunization Policy Advisory Board Meeting - Advancing Universal Health Coverage: Learning from experts, inspiring future health leaders	  	Primary health care programme; Multinational needs assessment and surveillance programme

6 FIP's growing impact at the WHA: A reflection on the past four years

For the past four years, FIP has increased its presence and impact during the WHA week. Following the pandemic, the WHO placed a greater focus on member states for the assembly agenda, which meant side events increased and gave an opportunity for non-state actors (NSAs) to broaden participation and engagement. We ensured an increased delegation of FIP Board members and representatives from FIP member organisations since 2023. An increasing number of delegates can now attend more side events and amplify the efforts of FIP during this important week on the global health calendar.

This broader presence pursued six objectives:

1. Increase the profile and presence of pharmacy as integral to global health;
2. Influence the global health agenda through policy statements (either as FIP or in collaboration with other stakeholders and partners, e.g., WHPA);
3. Ensure pharmacy is present at as many side events as possible;
4. Support the side events of our partners, stakeholders and members;
5. Host a side event, if possible and feasible;
6. Network, collaborate, socialise.

Table 8. Summary of FIP's past five-year impact and successes at WHA

Variables	2022*	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number of delegates	3	21	26	33	55
Number of individual statements delivered	3	5	5	10	6
Number of constituency statements delivered	2	3	3	3	3
Number of side events, receptions and networking engagements attended	18	28	42	66	80+
Number of side events participated in (moderator and/or speaker)	1	4	11	8	15
Number of side events co-organised	0	0	2	2	2
Number of FIP-led side events	0	0	0	1	3
Number of strategic meetings	2	5	4	4	2

*Before FIP full delegation was implemented, 2022 was still regarded as pandemic attendance so was low and can be regarded as baseline attendance.

FIP greatly benefits from the larger delegation at the WHA, which allows the federation to attend more events, engage in networking, and increase the presence of pharmacy in Geneva. This wider delegation includes the FIP Board, FIP Section representatives and member organisations, who are willing to join forces with FIP to deliver this mission.

Beyond the plenary, FIP delegates participated in and, where feasible, co-hosted multiple side-events, reinforcing pharmacy's contributions to PHC, patient safety, and resilient health systems. Through these combined actions, FIP ensured that the voice of pharmacy was heard consistently across the WHA's deliberations and that the profession remains recognised as an essential partner in achieving global health goals.

7 Conclusions

FIP's participation at the WHA continues to grow each year in both presence and impact.

This increasing engagement reflects the strong commitment not only from the FIP Board but also from FIP's organisations in membership and constituencies. FIP's advocacy message—"Think Health. Think Pharmacy"—is gaining greater recognition year after year. The more that FIP delegates engage, the more visible and valued the contributions of pharmacists become on the global stage.

As we conclude our fourth year of a wider, coordinated, engaged FIP delegation to the WHA, we are proud of the impact we have made in shaping global health discussions and increasing awareness of the impact of our profession. The growing number of events where our delegation presents or speaks testifies that our actions and presence is noticed. These achievements would not have been possible without the support of the FIP Board, our organisations in membership, and our wider network of committed professionals.

Looking ahead, we will continue to champion the role of pharmacists, pharmacy educators and pharmaceutical scientists across all aligned priorities and work collaboratively with other healthcare professionals, organisations, and stakeholders to advance healthcare for all, leaving no one behind. The insights and experiences gained over the past four years will continue to inform our priorities, ensuring that FIP's efforts remain aligned with the global health agenda and contribute meaningfully to policies that empower pharmacists worldwide.

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