

Intervention on provisional agenda item 8.1 - Antimicrobial resistance
136TH EXECUTIVE BOARD

Speaker: Ms Zuzana Kusynová, from the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Pharmaceutical Federation, the global organisation representing three million pharmacists worldwide.

We applaud WHO for placing antimicrobial resistance on the global agenda and developing this Global Action Plan.

We believe this plan would be made stronger by including quantified targets and indicators.

Under Objective 3, we believe reference to the WHO Global Action Plan on Vaccines should be made. Moreover, we should explicitly mention that immunisation provisions refer to patients and healthcare professionals.

Given the decline in immunisation rates, innovative additional approaches must be considered to deliver vaccinations, for example, by expanding immunisation through pharmacists, which is already authorised in the USA, Canada, Portugal, Ireland and the UK. Strong evidence supports that immunisation through pharmacists is safe and increases overall vaccination rates,¹ particularly for at-risk and hard-to-reach groups.²

Under Objective 4, we would like to highlight that 54 billion USD could be saved every year by optimising antibiotic use and pharmacists have been identified as one of the most effective solutions in reaching this potential,³ including through stewardship programmes and supporting rational prescribing. This was confirmed during the consultation on Responsible Use of Antimicrobials in Oslo last year.

Data on antimicrobial use should also be assessed based on their intended indication.

Finally, we applaud the recognition of the role of professional associations in this plan and reconfirm⁴ the commitment of pharmacists and their associations to fight against AMR and support implementing the Global Action Plan.

(298 words)

¹ http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/winter-pressures_community-pharmacy-services.pdf and Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. Adult immunization programs in non-traditional settings: quality standards and guidance for program evaluation <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr4901.pdf>

² IJPP 2013 - Increasing seasonal influenza vaccination uptake using community pharmacies <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ijpp.12037/full>

³ IMS Institute for Healthcare informatics: Advancing the responsible use of medicines - Applying levers for change. 2012.

⁴ http://fip.org/www/uploads/database_file.php?id=289&table_id=