

Intervention on provisional agenda item 10.5 – Addressing the global shortages of medicines, and the safety and accessibility of children’s medication
138th EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

I am speaking on behalf of FIP, the global organisation representing three million pharmacists worldwide.

We applaud the WHO for placing medicine shortages on the global health agenda. This is much needed because evidence¹ shows that shortages are worsening, putting at risk the safety and lives of children.

In 2013, FIP hosted an international summit on medicine shortages in Toronto, Canada, where a broad range of stakeholder experts, including from WHO, made the following recommendations:²

- 1) Each country should establish a publicly accessible means of providing information on shortages.
- 2) A global process to determine the list of critical/vulnerable products should be developed.
- 3) All procurers of medicines are urged to move towards active procurement processes that assure the continuity of supply of quality medicines.
- 4) All countries are encouraged to remove unnecessary variability of regulatory practices within and between countries
- 5) All countries should investigate the potential to establish a national body charged with gathering and sharing information about demand for, and supply of, medicines within their jurisdiction.
- 6) All countries are encouraged to develop evidence-based risk mitigation strategies which might include strategic buffer stockpiles, contingency plans, pandemic planning and capacity redundancy appropriate to their national needs.

Our commitment to finding solutions continued with our financial support of the Technical Consultation on Preventing and Managing Global Stock Outs of Medicines organised by WHO in December 2015. The consultation called for common emergency procedures to facilitate the movement of quality medicine among countries and to address the lack of data on demand.

We are pleased to see that the recommendations of this consultation are aligned with the 2013 recommendations of FIP and we call for an international, coordinated approach to tackle, once and for all, medicines shortages.

Thank you.

(294 words)

¹ https://fip.org/files/fip/publications/FIP_Summit_on_Medicines_Shortage.pdf

² Available at : www.fip.org/publications