

Intervention on provisional agenda item 10.3 - Substandard/spurious/false-labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products

136th WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Medical Association, the International Council of Nurses, the International Pharmaceutical Federation, the World Confederation for Physical Therapy and the World Dental Federation, which together form the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA), representing more than 26 million health care professionals in over 130 countries.

We strongly support the WHO's crucial role in ensuring the availability of quality, safe, efficacious and affordable medical products. We welcome the progress made on the work plan and the commitment of the countries that will lead the different activities.

In Annex 1, under *III "Assessment of alerts, reports and notifications received"*, we recommend that when deciding on corrective actions, such as batch withdrawal, the situation (particularly in terms of stock availability and therapeutic switch options) and its potential consequences on health are also considered.

Under *IV.1.2.*, we would like to mention that quality-control laboratories may require additional training to perform forensic investigations because producers of SFFCC medical products can use unconventional methods of manufacture, resulting in impurities and toxicities not routinely tested for.

Under *IV.1.3. "Containing the situation to prevent and reduce the risk to public health"*, we would like to underline that health care professionals are important in relaying safety messages. Their early involvement in the decision-making process and communication is crucial.

Under *V.2. "Developing awareness campaigns for the public and health care providers"*, we would like to highlight that, in our experience, campaigns are usually more effective when they are jointly organised by the NRRA and health care professionals associations.

Finally, we wish to reaffirm our interest in contributing to the Member State Mechanism's work plan and to invite the mechanism, under its governance provisions, to enable such contribution.

(287 words)