

**Intervention on provisional agenda item 16.4 on Global Vaccines Action Plan
SIXTY-EIGHTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

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

Dear Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak for the International Pharmaceutical Federation, which represents over three million pharmacists.

We applaud efforts towards implementing this action plan alongside a commitment to strengthen national capacities for routine immunisation in order to eradicate vaccine-preventable diseases. One of the ambitions of this plan is to exploit fully the vast potential of vaccines. As highlighted by the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation, vaccine affordability and supply are key.

Opportunities to vaccinate are being missed. There is growing evidence that vaccination by pharmacists increases vaccination rates in hard-to-reach groups,¹ but also in people eligible but not previously vaccinated; in those over 65 years of age; those under 65 years and at-risk; and in carers and frontline healthcare workers.²

The expert group highlighted that vaccination delivery is impeded by disruptive situations, such as war. Many government and non-governmental organisations have responsibilities in carrying out crisis management, and they should be encouraged to include pharmacists in their plans. As FIP states in its professional standards on the role of the pharmacist in crisis management,² pharmacists can help ensure that the disaster victims have timely access to vaccines. We are developing guidelines on the pharmacist's role in emergency situations.

Not only do vaccines need to be safe and available, they must be acceptable to patients. Joint WHO-FIP guidelines on good pharmacy practice³ emphasise that pharmacists should be used to their full potential in education to address vaccination hesitancy and resistance. This will help achieve the goals in the global plan.

Thank you.

(297 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 http://www.fip.org/www/uploads/database_file.php?id=275&table_id=

³ FIP/WHO Joint Guidelines on Good Pharmacy Practice - Standards for Quality Services (2011, Hyderabad). Available at: http://fip.org/www/index.php?page=good_pharmacy_practice