

**Intervention on provisional agenda item 12.7 - Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework for the sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits**

**71<sup>th</sup> WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

*Speaker: Ms Ema Paulino, from the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)*

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), which represents over four million pharmacists worldwide.

We welcome the progress in preparedness for addressing influenza pandemics. One of the ambitions of the Framework is to exploit fully the vast potential of vaccines. Influenza pandemics are unpredictable but recurring events and we need to be well prepared for outbreaks. This, indeed, implies that vaccines must be available and affordable, but also that the infrastructure must allow access to their administration.

Opportunities to vaccinate are being missed. This is especially important for hard-to-reach groups or groups that are at particular risk, such as pregnant women and the elderly.

The 2016 FIP report<sup>1</sup> on immunisation illustrates that community pharmacists are increasingly involved in immunisation activities, and this has been directly associated with expanded vaccination coverage, particularly for seasonal influenza. Pharmacists already have a well-established role in vaccination in 24 countries and territories.<sup>2</sup> With this positive trend, pharmacists in New Zealand and Portugal, for example, significantly increased vaccination rates for seasonal influenza in at-risk patients (those aged over 65 years and pregnant women). In Ireland, one in every six patients who were vaccinated against flu at a pharmacy had never been vaccinated before.<sup>2</sup>

Not only must vaccines be safe and available, but they must be acceptable to patients. Joint WHO-FIP guidelines<sup>3</sup> on good pharmacy practice emphasise that pharmacists should be used to their full potential in education to address vaccination hesitancy and resistance. This will help to achieve better preparedness for influenza pandemics.

Thank you for your attention.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.fip.org/files/fip/publications/FIP\\_report\\_on\\_Immunisation.pdf](http://www.fip.org/files/fip/publications/FIP_report_on_Immunisation.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Vaccination by pharmacists – 2017 consultation to FIP member organisations in Seoul, South Korea

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.fip.org/www/uploads/database\\_file.php?id=331&table\\_id=](http://www.fip.org/www/uploads/database_file.php?id=331&table_id=)