

**Intervention on provisional agenda item 10.2 – Draft global action plan on the public health response to dementia
140th WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Speaker: Ms Zuzana Kusynová, 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), the global organisation representing over three million pharmacists worldwide.

FIP welcomes this draft global action plan for 2017-2025 and we appreciate that some of our comments shared during the consultation process have already been integrated.

The action plan (page 3, point (OP) 2), if adopted by the World Health Assembly, will urge member states to develop, as soon as practicable, ambitious national public health responses to dementia. In efforts to increase public awareness, acceptance and understanding of dementia, the development of awareness campaigns and screening prevention programmes is crucial. Successful existing strategies show that pharmacists are well placed to be the co-organisers of such campaigns or screening activities and of community-based dementia partnership programmes.

Research is needed for dementia prevention, risk reduction, diagnosis, treatment and care. The ambitious global target 7 (page 20 of EB140/28) set for the member states, if approved, will encourage global research to double. Increased investment in pharmaceutical sciences related to dementia research, innovation and its governance is an integral component of the national response to dementia.

Pharmacists organisations, both national and international, have a vital role to play in taking responsibility for promoting to governments and other stakeholders the need to take effective action to improve policy and practice in relation to responsible use of medicines and care in dementia, including through the prevention by pharmacists of medication-induced dementia, a point not yet considered in the draft global action plan. There is a wide range of technical expertise among pharmacists worldwide that FIP is keen to mobilise to support the finalisation and implementation of the action plan.

Thank you for your attention.