

**Intervention on provisional agenda item 9.1 – Global Vaccine Action Plan
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 three million pharmacists.

As written on the page 2 of the report by the secretariat (140/25), strident efforts on the part of all countries and immunisation stakeholders are required to catch up and achieve Global Vaccines Action Plan goals by 2020. Increasing access to medicines and vaccinations is crucial to effective implementation of the global plan.

In its recommendations, the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children identified pharmacists as under-utilised resources for their active role in administration of live-saving commodities, such as vaccines.¹

With recognition of the role of pharmacists as immunisers in the 2011 FIP-WHO Guidelines on Good Pharmacy Practice,² an increasing number of countries, such as France, Switzerland and Australia, are introducing immunisation rights specifically for pharmacists. Pharmacists have an essential role to educate and deliver pharmacy-based vaccinations, and they are an important addition to the immunisation team.

A survey of 45 countries found that nearly half of the countries (44%) have in-pharmacy premises offering vaccinations.³ In 13 of the 45 countries, pharmacists themselves have the authority to administer vaccines and, therefore, the estimated potential to reach 655 million people.

FIP's new report on pharmacy's impact on immunisation revealed that at least 940 million people live in countries where over 193,000 community pharmacies can potentially offer access to vaccination services. Based on a global population of 7.4 billion, this represents at least one in eight people.³

We encourage all member states to follow the path many are already taking, by revising their legal frameworks so that pharmacists all over the world can contribute effectively to the implementation of Global Vaccines Action Plan.

Thank you for your attention.

¹ <http://bit.ly/1KU6IAP>

² http://www.fip.org/good_pharmacy_practice

³ www.fip.org/publications