

Intervention on provisional agenda item 12.4 – Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: responses to specific assignments in preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases in 2018

69th WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

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

I am speaking on behalf of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) and three million pharmacists worldwide.

FIP supports the resolution and welcomes its approach towards registering and publishing contributions of non-state actors to the achievement of the nine voluntary global targets for non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The targets could only be achieved with a system and policies that allow effective utilisation of each health care professional in a team. Patients suffering from NCDs will experience changes in their conditions and the settings in which they are treated; they may be treated at home or in hospital from time to time. Consequently, collaboration between health care professionals to ensure seamless care is fundamental for providing these patients with a coherent and safe therapeutic plan and improved quality of life.

In the context of NCDs, pharmacists could initiate adequate prevention programmes; provide screening in order to achieve early detection and early treatment; and make a unique contribution to the results of medicines therapy, with the expected results being achieved via adherence. Adherence also optimises overall health care spending as 4.6% of global total health expenditure (USD 269bn worldwide) can be avoided by adherence to medicines (2012 IMS report). Pharmacists have been identified as key levers to improve adherence.

Involvement of pharmacists in NCDs is not new. In the 1990s, for example, Finnish pharmacists developed comprehensive programmes to support patients with asthma, hypertension or diabetes. There are many examples where pharmacists actively engage their patients and the rest of the health care team to reduce the burden of NCDs.

FIP would like to congratulate the WHO for its efforts in planning the third high-level meeting in 2018. A coordinated and multi-sectoral approach is needed, which is why we are calling for key stakeholders to be included at this high-level meeting.