

**Intervention on provisional agenda item 14.6 – WHO response in severe, large scale emergencies**

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), the global organisation representing three million pharmacists worldwide.

Large scale emergencies inevitably have an impact on the way health care is provided to patients. In order to facilitate planned and co-ordinated responses during emergencies (including natural disasters and epidemics), in June 2016 FIP will launch guidelines to support and increase the contribution of community and hospital pharmacists in the management and implementation of disaster relief programmes. They concern all four phases: 1) reduction (risk mitigation); 2) preparedness (readiness); 3) response; and 4) recovery.

In disasters pharmacists are well positioned to optimise the effectiveness of national plans because they can ensure that the victims have timely access to medicines and can take on extended roles in first response, triage, immunisation and first aid. The role of pharmacists in emergencies is important in terms of filling and refilling prescriptions, organising well-thought-out medicine donations, procuring medicines, ensuring security of medicines, managing the pharmaceutical stock for clinicians, communication, and building emergency kits — through both hospital/clinic-based care and retail pharmacy. In either setting, the role of the pharmacy team tends to evolve and expand in times of civil emergency (for example with immunisation programmes, prescription of medicines when authorised by national legislation).

We call on governments to develop policies or protocols on disaster management and emergency preparedness in the health care setting that include pharmacists in order to guarantee a truly resilient health care system.

I thank you for your attention.