

Intervention on provisional agenda item 16.4 – Addressing the global shortages of medicines, and the safety and accessibility of children’s medication
69th 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.

We applaud the WHO for its leadership in addressing the shortages. The report is very timely, as existing shortages are worsening and new shortages occur continuously.¹

Situations in some countries are dramatic, for example in Venezuela, 75% of the medicines are missing, leading to terrible consequences for patients.

The shortages, similarly to diseases, rarely stop by borders and a coordinated international approach of all stakeholders is needed. Already in 2011, in Hyderabad, India, the global community of pharmacists called on all stakeholders, including governments, pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmacy wholesalers, pharmaceutical purchasing agencies, medicine insurance plans, pharmaceutical regulators and the pharmacy profession to work urgently to ensure continuity of medication supply so that the appropriate treatment of patients can be initiated and maintained.

In 2013, FIP hosted an international summit on medicine shortages in Toronto, Canada, where a broad range of stakeholder experts, including from the WHO, met and agreed on a series of recommendations.² In December 2015, FIP was delighted to support the Technical Consultation on Preventing and Managing Global Stock Outs of Medicines organised by WHO.

We are pleased to see that the recommendations in the report are in line with those of this meeting and the FIP summit. Pharmacists are committed to finding solutions towards ensuring that timely access to medicines is not threatened by medicines shortages.

We encourage the global coordinated approach to tackle this issue. FIP will continue to support the authorities of WHO in this field.

Thank you.

¹ https://fip.org/files/fip/publications/FIP_Summit_on_Medicines_Shortage.pdf

² www.fip.org/publications