



World Health Professions Alliance WHPA

Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly

Agenda item 15.3: Substandard/spurious/false-labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Medical Association, International Council of Nurses, International Pharmaceutical Federation, World Confederation for Physical Therapy and World Dental Federation, which together form the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA) and speak for more than 26 million health care professionals in more than 130 countries.

We congratulate the Secretariat for this report. Under Appendix 1, we would like to highlight that the manufacturing, importing, distributing, supplying, selling and, it is important to add also dispensing of SSFFC medical products can also be facilitated when the required supervision by a healthcare professional or the authorities is deficient.

Additionally, limited access to medicines can put the integrity of supply chain at risk. The phenomenon of medicines shortages creates gaps that raise the risk of SSFFC products infiltrating supplies, as it is increasing the urge to accessing the missing products. The complex challenge of medicines shortages affects both developed and developing countries, as highlighted at the International Summit on Medicine Shortage¹ that was organised by FIP who gathered all major stakeholders in Toronto last year.

It is encouraging that the Member State Mechanism has been able to validate its work plan, but we would like to express our concern that the financing of this work plan is not yet secured, and that the Mechanism only meets once a year.

At its second meeting, the Mechanism decided to allow a remote observation of the Steering Committee meeting. We would like to encourage the Mechanism to consider extending this observation to NGOs in official relations with WHO.

Finally, we would like to reaffirm our interest in contributing to the work plan and invite the Mechanism to use the provision of its governance to enable such contribution.

I thank you for your attention.

¹ http://www.fip.org/files/fip/publications/FIP_Summit_on_Medicines_Shortage.pdf