



## World Health Professions Alliance WHPA

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### Sixty-eight World Health Assembly

#### **Agenda item 17.3: Substandard/spurious/false-labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products**

Honourable Members of the World Health Assembly,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Council of Nurses, the International Pharmaceutical Federation, the World Confederation for Physical Therapy, the World Dental Federation and the World Medical Association, which together form the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA).

We welcome efforts to finalise the mechanism review which, we hope, will soon be adopted. The plan is a good start to fighting SSFFC medical products, but resources are needed to make it a reality.

Consistency, integration and coordination among solutions adopted at local level need to be ensured because there is an increasing number of different initiatives from both public and private sectors. This should be highlighted.

Under II.1/8c, national and regional regulatory authorities are encouraged to protect the supply chain from the very beginning. In past decades, globalisation has led to a highly fragmented supply chain where overseeing reliable and complete traceability of the real sources of raw materials is problematic. Therefore regulating those who deal with raw materials, in addition to regulating active pharmaceutical ingredient manufacturers, has become more relevant.

Under the Section regarding alerts, we believe that the reporting process should be simple, or else it might discourage healthcare professionals and patients from providing feedback on suspect cases. Reporting is also facilitated by proper training, such as provided through the “Handbook for healthcare professionals on spurious medicines” developed by the WHPA with partners in India.

Under V.2 on Assessment of prevention strategies, evidence shows that the public is unaware of the risks associated with buying medicines through unsafe, illegal or non-legitimate sources. Consequently, awareness campaigns and education should target both the public and stakeholders, and health professionals and associations have a major role to play in this respect.

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