

Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly, Geneva, May 2012

Intervention on provisional agenda item 13.13 Substandard/spurious/falsey-labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products (SSFFC)

Speaker: Mr Luc Besancon, The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)

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).

We strongly support WHO's fundamental role in the area of ensuring the availability of quality, safe, efficacious and affordable medical products and urge that adequate financing be provided to WHO to continue this important role.

We would also like to make one important recommendation related to the Terms of Reference and draft resolution.

WHPA firmly believes that emerging channels for SSFFC medicines, such as the Internet, require specific expertise, along with multisectoral and multistakeholder support to tackle effectively. As with NCDs, there are various sectors, across governments and society that can be actively engaged to tackle the issue of SSFFC medical products.

We request Member States to ensure that the new mechanism is open to the voice and collaboration of civil society, in a transparent and coordinated manner, with the relevant conflict of interests' management. This approach would be in line with Appendix 1 of document A65/40 (point 5, d) which describes a comparative advantage of WHO to be its ability to work with other stakeholders.

As a way forward, WHPA remains committed to support the new Member State mechanism with our expertise, political representation and the largest global outreach of health professionals.

Thank you for your attention.