

**Intervention on provisional agenda item 13.3 Addressing the global shortage of, and access to, medicines and vaccines  
70<sup>th</sup> WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

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

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

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

Challenges in access to and shortages of medicines and vaccines are worsening. This issue affects all countries and involves both branded and generic products.

In 2013, FIP hosted an international summit on medicine shortages in Toronto, Canada, where a broad range of stakeholder experts, including from the WHO, agreed on a series of recommendations. These recommendations are well reflected in WHA Resolution 69.25 on “Addressing the global shortage of medicines and vaccines”.

In order to support the WHO and the implementation of this WHA Resolution, in particular its points 1(f) and 3(3), last week FIP published a document “Reporting medicines shortages: Models and tactical options.” This is freely available on our website and provides an overview of some of the models used to report medicines shortages. It aims to guide the development of a reporting system (or the improvement of an existing system) through the sharing of best practices. In many countries (such as France, USA and the Netherlands), pharmacists play a key role in developing effective reporting systems that are used to inform other stakeholders (including governments) and assist all healthcare professionals in finding solutions to shortages affecting their patients.

However, prevention is always better than cure. This is why pharmacists urge the WHO and all Member States to work promptly on solutions to allow better access to information on shortages, identify products at higher risk of being in shortage or those for which shortages will have higher impact on patients, and recognise the influence of procurement strategies on shortages. Every day of waiting is a day where the health of patients is at risk.

Thank you.