

Intervention on provisional agenda item 6.13 SSFFC

Speaker: Mrs Diane Gal, from 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 would like to make two strong recommendations on the Terms of Reference and draft resolution.

Firstly, we agree on strengthening national capacities in regulatory oversight and quality control laboratories but would caution that we cannot forget that governments can and do prohibit SSFFC medicines under national law, but once exported from the national territory, their control comes to an end—so international law is needed to pick up where national law leaves off. Until today it is not a crime in international law to trade falsified medicines, regardless of the public health and economic harm caused.

Therefore, we request Member States to include an objective within the TOR to commission an expert group to report back to the next EB and WHA in 2013 on the feasibility of establishing a public health treaty on combating SSFFC medicines adapting the model of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control which has been successful in public health protection, and in raising new money for its implementation. To support this, we would add in the draft resolution operative paragraph 7 that the Director-General be requested to report back the expert group findings.

Secondly, WHPA strongly believes that emerging channels for SSFFC medicines, like the Internet, require additional expertise.

This is why we request Member States to ensure that the new mechanism is open to the voice of civil society with the relevant conflict of interests' management.

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