

## **Intervention on provisional agenda item 6.1 – Global Strategy and targets for tuberculosis prevention, care and control after 2015**

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

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

We welcome the global strategy to ensure that TB prevention, care and control will continue and further improve beyond 2015.

In 2011, FIP and WHO signed a Joint Statement on the role of Pharmacists in Tuberculosis Care and Control<sup>1</sup>.

This statement highlights that *“pharmacists constitute an important and essential part of the health workforce. In many countries, pharmacists are the frontline healthcare providers and often a first point of contact for people with symptoms of TB. Systematic efforts to involve pharmacists in TB care and control therefore need to be undertaken as a part of strengthening health systems in general and health workforce in particular”*.

WHO and FIP have jointly *“drawn up the basis for action-oriented collaboration between national TB programmes and national pharmacy associations in the fight against TB and MDR-TB”*.

This global statement has been translated into several national policies. For example, in India, the local associations of pharmacists signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Central TB division of the Indian Government in 2012.

In several Indian regions, community pharmacists with a specific training are referring suspected cases to medical centers, raising awareness on TB among the population as well as to serving as a DOTs centers.

This example and many others clearly demonstrate the relevance of pillars one “integrated patient-centered care and prevention” and two “bold policies and supportive systems”, particularly the engagement in ALL public and private care providers, including pharmacists.

FIP and the global community of pharmacists would like to renew today their commitment and their support for the implementation of the global strategy and its adoption and adaptation at national level.

Thank you for your attention.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.fip.org/files/fip/news/DOTS\\_TB\\_projectIndia.pdf](https://www.fip.org/files/fip/news/DOTS_TB_projectIndia.pdf)