

Intervention on provisional agenda item 13.4 – Multisectoral action for a life course approach to healthy ageing: draft global strategy and plan of action on ageing and health

69th WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

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

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

FIP was pleased to contribute to the consultations towards the development of the draft Global Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing and Health. We applaud the WHO Secretariat for the leadership in this important topic.

As outlined in the strategy, there is an anticipated shift into a more community-based approach for elderly people. Pharmacists are more than ever to be considered as key to making any healthy ageing policy effective, and to facilitate the achievement of these goals.

Therefore, FIP is committed to working actively towards the development of the pharmacists' profession, as a part of the health care team, to be able to meet the health care expectations of the elderly. This can only be done with proper planning and development, and through a competency-based approach. FIP, through its education initiative, is investing USD 2m over five years, in order to support the reform of the education of pharmacists, so that they are sufficient in number and have appropriate skills to respond to the current and future needs of ageing population.

To become a reality, the strategy and its implementation should rely on evidence and best practices of interventions. Some of them were summarised in the World Report on Ageing and Health, highlighting the added value that pharmacists provide to the elderly through effective management of polymedication which leads to substantial savings by the health care system.

We hereby renew the commitment of pharmacists to improve the health of ageing populations.

Thank you.