

## **Intervention on provisional agenda item 9.7 Access to essential medicines**

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 over three million pharmacists worldwide. This statement is also supported by International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF).

We congratulate the Secretariat for this report which identifies important issues preventing universal access to essential medicines and their responsible use.

Through the implementation of Universal health coverage, governments are increasingly investing in medicines. There is therefore a need to ensure that these investments will lead to positive health outcomes, in other words that medicines are used responsibly. Indeed, an independent report presented at the Ministers' summit on the benefits of responsible use of medicines held in 2012 in Amsterdam revealed that 500 billion dollars could be saved annually if responsible use of medicines is achieved. Pharmacists have been identified as a key contributor to achieving these savings. This highlights that access to medicines should systematically be combined with access to pharmaceutical expertise to ensure their responsible use.

We also would like to compliment the Secretariat for highlighting the complex challenge of medicine shortage which affects both developed and developing countries. FIP organized in June 2013 an International Summit on Medicine Shortage gathering all major stakeholders. We were privileged to have the contributions of WHO and the governments of Australia, Canada and South Africa. This Summit concluded in a series of six recommendations, summarized in the report<sup>1</sup> of this meeting. We would welcome the opportunity to work with WHO on the implementation of some of these recommendations, especially the development of the list of critical and vulnerable medicines, as it will identify essential medicines at risk of becoming in shortage.

Thank you for your attention.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.fip.org/files/fip/publications/FIP\\_Summit\\_on\\_Medicines\\_Shortage.pdf](http://www.fip.org/files/fip/publications/FIP_Summit_on_Medicines_Shortage.pdf)