

**Intervention on provisional agenda item 8.5 - Global action plan on antimicrobial resistance
138th EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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

I am speaking on behalf of the International Pharmaceutical Federation and three million pharmacists worldwide.

We would also like to applaud the WHO for increasing political awareness, engagement and leadership on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), as well as for efforts made towards organising a high-level meeting this year.

It has been estimated that 54 billion USD could be saved annually through responsible antibiotic use.¹

The evolution of AMR is complex and multifactorial, and so are the solutions. We know that much work lies ahead in improving practices and in facing the rapid evolution of this threat. Substantial decline in resistance can take a number of years of sustained change in prescribing practices. Perseverance is needed to see the results of antimicrobial stewardship and other continuous strategies

Against this background, a coordinated and multi-sectoral approach is needed, which is why we are calling for key stakeholders to be included at this high-level meeting.

Last year, FIP launched a document called “Fighting antimicrobial resistance: The contribution of pharmacists” (available at: <http://www.fip.org/publications>), highlighting how current national AMR policies are facilitated by professional organisations of pharmacists.

The publication documents what pharmacists have already been doing to avoid the further emergence of AMR, offering a menu of evidence-based solutions from all over the world, including stewardship programmes to optimise antibiotic prescribing in hospitals, and the collection of leftover antibiotics. Strong evidence suggests that pharmacists, if used to their full potential, are facilitators of this journey.

FIP has had the opportunity to contribute to WHO consultations to develop the Global Action Plan and we are keen to continue this important collaboration. Indeed, when a new antibiotic is discovered, we do not own its efficiency, we merely look after it for the next generation.

Thank you.

(295 words)

¹ <https://goo.gl/psufaS>