

Intervention on provisional agenda item 5(h) – Strategy on women’s health and well-being in the WHO European Region

66th SESSION OF WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

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.

We welcome the strategy which outlines important needs to be addressed in all national health policies and plans, such as improving health literacy among women and strengthening early detection and screening, to name a few.

Pharmacists, as conveniently accessible and easily approachable sources of advice, participate in empowering women to make informed, evidence-based, health-conscious and self-determined decisions on their health and responsible medicines use. Pharmacists often conduct education campaigns and services targeting specific women’s issues, ranging from medication review during pregnancy, through screening for non communicable diseases such as breast cancer, to care during menopause.¹

We see also the active engagement of pharmacists in supporting victims of violence, as many pharmacists are also women. For example, pharmacists in Germany launched a programme “Red Card against Domestic Violence” that raised awareness on this issue among German community pharmacists. And in Spain, the pharmacists association collaborated with the Ministry of Health on a programme for pharmacists to screen, detect and report cases of gender violence, and to sensitise the public on this issue.

These activities are among the many by which pharmacists support women in their well-being and health. Given that women are often leaders in health within their own families, we believe that their health and well-being will also have positive impact on family health as a whole.

Thank you.

¹ FIP internal database