



fondation Chirac
AGIR AU SERVICE DE LA PAIX

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Press release

Promoting an integrated approach to curb counterfeit medicines

Regulatory affairs professionals, representatives of regulatory authorities and civil society and other professionals involved in the fight against counterfeit medicines, are meeting in Dakar for a seminar to discuss an integrated approach to curb counterfeit medicines.

30 April 2015 – Dakar (Senegal) – A seminar on the issue of counterfeit medicines was held yesterday in Dakar. This event followed the 4th African Regulatory Conference, which was held on 27 and 28 April in Dakar with the goal of identifying means and initiatives for cooperation among the various health community stakeholders in Africa in order to promote better access to quality medicines and healthcare. This seminar was organized by IFPMA (International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations), DIA (Drug Information Association) and the Fondation Chirac: three organizations mobilizing to sound the alarm over the scourge of counterfeit medicines.

Chairing the opening ceremony, Dr Pape Amadou Diack, Director-General for health with the Ministry of health and social action of Senegal, reminded the participants of the dangers connected to counterfeit medicines, which are undermining States' efforts to ensure the health of their populations. He particularly stressed the need for cooperation at the subregional, regional, continental and even global levels to combat this scourge. He also shared the efforts Senegal has made in the fight against counterfeit medicines. Some of the most prominent of the last two years include the creation of the Senegalese national committee against counterfeit medicines and the illegal practice of pharmacy, as well as operation "Porcupine" of 2014, which led to the arrest and sentencing of 42 people.

In his opening speech, Professor Marc Gentilini, Delegate General for access to quality medicines and healthcare at Fondation Chirac, recalled that "eradicating the scourge of counterfeit medicines cannot be done alone. On the contrary, it will demand accountability on the part of the political decision-makers who must mobilize in order to expand the means of cooperation and harmonization, both nationally and internationally."

Jytte Lyngvig, Vice President and Managing Director, DIA Europe, Middle East and Africa, notes that "the discussions first took stock of current regulations, and then dealt with the integrity of medicine supply chains, which are vital links in efforts to curb the sale of counterfeit medicines. Later, the participants discussed the need and the means for greater cooperation between the States and the health community, notably through regulatory harmonisation and through reinforcement of capacity and cooperation among regional players, while also stressing the need for economic development."

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As stated by Eduardo Pisani, Director General of IFPMA, "According to the World Health Organization (WHO), around 15% of medicines in the world are counterfeit, and in certain regions, this rate may exceed 60%. Strengthening **international cooperation** between States and the health community is vital, and depends on the development of regulatory harmonization. The goal of the conference is thus to raise awareness among African authorities and health professionals on the need for regional mobilization to combat counterfeit medicines effectively."

About the Fondation Chirac

As the foundation of the former President of the French Republic, Jacques Chirac, the Fondation Chirac continues his commitment to the cause of peace and is active in the areas of conflict prevention, dialogue between cultures and access to quality healthcare and medicines.

The Fondation Chirac contributes to the fight against the scourge of counterfeit medicines through advocacy and public awareness work. It also aims to mobilise political decision-makers in order to raise general awareness of the need for strengthened State governance on public health issues. www.fondationchirac.eu

About DIA

DIA is a global community representing thousands of stakeholders working together to bring safe and effective health products to patients. DIA creates unparalleled opportunities for regulators, innovators, patients and other health industry players to exchange knowledge and collaborate in a neutral setting. DIA supports access to medicines and innovation by reinforcing the capacities of the regulatory players, innovators and all those who facilitate access to medicines around the world. <http://www.diahome.org>

About IFPMA

IFPMA represents research-based pharmaceutical companies and associations across the globe. The research-based pharmaceutical industry's 2 million employees research, develop and provide medicines and vaccines that improve the life of patients worldwide. Based in Geneva, IFPMA has official relations with the United Nations and contributes industry expertise to help health experts find solutions that improve global health.

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