



International
Federation of
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Statement

IFPMA Statement under WHA 64 agenda item 13.7 on Substandard/spurious/false-labeled/falsified/counterfeit medical products

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On behalf of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations, the IFPMA, I thank you for the opportunity to address the issue related to fake medical products.

The IFPMA has consistently stated that fake medicines are a major public health threat. To be clear, fake medicines at best cheat people, at worst kill. Taking them can turn a treatable disease into a fatal one and can also foster drug resistance. It's a crime against patients and it is only right that we should expect the global health community to tackle it with the same vigor as any other health threat.

Fake medicines are a growing phenomenon that knows no borders: fake medical products are not isolated occurrences, encounters with such criminal products regularly happen across the world.

In 2010, 1,735 incidents of fake medicines were reported by the Pharmaceutical Security Institute, a nearly 10% increase compared with 2 years before. One third of these cases reached licensed wholesale distributors and/or pharmacies in 37 different countries. Worryingly, data also show that fake cancer medicines increased by almost 20% compared to 2009.

How do we fight it? We see that more actions are being taken by competent authorities in different parts of the world and that awareness raising in the media is increasing. Also, experience has shown that this is an issue which requires a multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary approach – regardless of its name and nature. We believe that cooperation is fundamental, both at the local and the global levels. We believe that now is the moment to make efforts to agree on a global agenda which puts patients' safety at the core. Efforts should start by uniting around an agreed term that will permit the building of a truly global shared commitment to stopping fake medicines.

Member States should therefore seize the current opportunity, either to agree on a consensus-building process to refine the existing partnership, or to create a new one to fight fake medicines.

Fake medicines are an obstacle to the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health and therefore the leadership of the World Health Organization on this issue is fundamental. Doing nothing is not an option. It would be playing into the hands of the criminals who are profiting at the expense of patients' health.