



Fight the Fakes Statement, WHA67

Item 15.3 Substandard/spurious/falsely-labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products

Delivered by the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF)

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important discussion today.

Today we speak on behalf of the partners of the *Fight the Fakes* campaign. Fight the Fakes is a multi-stakeholder campaign supported by organizations representing healthcare professionals, disease-specific organizations, research institutes, product-development partnerships, foundations, coalitions, non-profits, wholesalers, pharmacists, and private sector.

Fight the Fakes partners support the work of the WHO Member States Mechanism on Substandard/spurious/falsely-labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products as a key contribution towards an effective fight against fake medicines.

Fake medicines are a public health threat as they put patients and the general public at risk. Patients exposed to fake medicines believe they are receiving genuine treatment, but instead they are getting potentially dangerous products that could increase resistance to real treatments, and cause further illness, disability or even death.

Fake medicines undermine patients' trust in health systems, their governments, health care providers and manufacturers of genuine medicines. Fight the Fakes partners believe that a comprehensive strategy to combat manufacturing and distribution of fake medicines requires an active participation that involves all stakeholders and should leverage several competencies at both local and global levels.

Medicines and vaccines counterfeiting is a crime against patients and producers of fake medicines are criminals.

Tackling fake medicines requires strong policies, legislation and penalties for those producing fake products. Robust coordination among international organizations is vital to ensure this problem is correctly tackled. As the leader on global health matters, the World Health Organization (WHO) has an unparalleled role to play.

Fight the Fakes partners stand ready to support WHO Members in increasing awareness and understanding of this crime and protect patients from fake medicines worldwide.