

Report of the informal technical working group on Activity A to develop recommendations for the health authorities engaged in the detection of substandard/spurious/falsefully-labelled/falsified/ counterfeit (SSFFC) medical products and establish a strengthening and tool-generating programme to contribute to Member States' training

1. The informal technical working group meeting on Activity A was held on 21 November 2016 in Geneva and was chaired by Mrs Camilla Gomes (Brazil).
2. Representatives from six Member States were present (Brazil, India, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Spain and United States of America).
3. The Chair opened the informal working group meeting and welcomed all delegates.
4. The agenda had previously been circulated to all participants by the Secretariat and was agreed by the meeting. The Chair provided a short presentation, in which she outlined the background, explained the method of work and presented the main changes made in the document by Brazil, based on comments received, with the aim of clarifying and eliminating duplication and ambiguities.
5. The working group discussed a document entitled, "Framework/Guideline on developing a national plan for preventing, detecting and responding to SSFFC medical products", which was displayed on screen in order to enable Member States to comment on the structure and make amendments. The revised document entitled, "Guidance on developing a national plan for preventing, detecting and responding to SSFFC medical products," was agreed by consensus, with a recommendation that it be adopted by the fifth meeting of the Member State mechanism.
6. The meeting also discussed upcoming activities and decided to propose that a survey be developed to identify existing expertise and training materials concerning the prevention, detection and response to SSFFC medical products, as well as highlighting the need for training in countries/regions. The proposed timeline for the development and conduct of the survey in 2017 is submitted for the consideration of the Steering Committee.

7. Furthermore, the informal working group proposes to continue the drafting of “Recommendations for Health Authorities on Criteria for Risk Classification and Assessment Prioritization of Cases of SSFFC medical products”. A proposed schedule of activities is submitted for the consideration of the Steering Committee.

8. The meeting, which was conducted in a spirit of cooperation and flexibility, benefitted from helpful suggestions and amendments from delegates. The Member States thanked Brazil for their leadership in progressing the work on this activity.

9. The Chair will provide a verbal report to the Steering Committee and the plenary meeting of the Member State mechanism on the progress and next steps in respect of Activity A of the prioritized workplan.

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