European Union

Statement

WHO

152nd Executive Board

(30 January - 7 February 2023)

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Item 7 - Substandard and falsified medical products

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Geneva, 1 February 2023

152nd Session of the Executive Board

Item 7 - Substandard and falsified medical products

EU Statement

Chair,

Director-General,

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

This statement is made on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

The candidate countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina* and the EFTA country Norway align themselves with this statement.

Falsified medicines are an increasing serious threat to people's health, now in all countries. The EU and its Member States have fully supported the WHO Member State Mechanism on Substandard and Falsified Medical Products (MMSM) activities, considering the added value of the cooperation between the different WHO Regions in the counteraction of the distribution of substandard and falsified medical products;

The EU recognises the importance of WHO in guiding and coordinating Member states to address this threat to public health, not only with regard to the harm

* North Macedonia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

caused by substandard and falsified Medical Products, but also in highlighting the importance of an effective fight against such products in the illegal and not only in the legal chain of distribution, by involving also necessary resources as it would be with the other types of serious crimes, and see the need for a strategic and longer-term planning, prioritizing capacity building, cooperation and reporting, and aimed at improving accessibility to the existing documentation, such as guidance and training materials, by making these readily available to all Member States in a user-friendly way, and improving the interoperability of different systems used to report on substandard and falsified medical products at regional and global levels, taking in consideration also the lessons learned from COVID-19 pandemic;

We Strongly advocate for the leadership role of WHO in coordinating all National Competent Authorities, in particular in the Regions where there are many ongoing efficient activities in the field, such as Europe: stronger Regional coordination initiatives would allow the optimization of the use of resources, aimed at facilitating the development of tools and projects at a Regional level, to be used in supporting other Regions in terms of capacity building;

We Recommend that Member states take steps, working with the WHO, to share the existing web based tools (such as databases) and platforms (such as knowledge management systems), looking forward in putting all in one single platform, with the goal of creating a stronger, coordinated and shared system for fostering the implementation of the existing good practices at a broader level, allowing to target emerging trends of falsification (such as the infiltration of stolen medicines), by building the Member states activities on the ground of the previous experiences of other International/ Member states Institutions.

With respect to the optimization of the use of resources, we also strongly support that the outcomes of an independent evaluation of the Mechanism have to be reported to the governing bodies in line with the current reporting requirements of the Mechanism.

Thank you.