

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

SEVENTY-FIFTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

(21-30 May 2023)

Item 13.3: Substandard and falsified medical products

Item 13.5: Infection Prevention and Control

Chairperson,

The DPRK delegation appreciates WHO Secretariat for its endeavors to address the substandard and falsified medical products as an importance issue.

Universal health coverage (UHC) depends on strong primary health care services, which can be realized only with sufficient provision of health products including medicines, vaccines, medical devices, diagnostics, protective equipment and assistive devices.

In this regard, these products must be of assured safety, efficacy, performance and quality and addressing the substandard and falsified medical products is a very important and primary task which has direct bearings on the life safety of the people.

The DPRK has been implementing the action plan for strengthening the capacity of local production of essential medical products while taking all necessary measures to prevent the inflow of the substandard and falsified medical products into our country by strictly conducting the quality survey and the surveillance of the imported medical products.

The Government is now pushing ahead the renovation and modernization of the national regulatory authority which is playing the important role in improving the quality of the medical products and the surveillance of the substandard and falsified ones.

In this regard, we look forward to valuable support from WHO Secretariat concerning the technical trainings aimed at enhancing the capacity of the regulatory authorities.

Chairperson,

Different kinds of communicable and infectious diseases as well as newly emerging viruses are now threatening the life of human being across the world and seriously affecting the development of the mankind.

The lessons learnt from the pandemic of COVID-19 is that we would not be able to control a communicable disease in a successful way without developing a safe and reliable system to formulate and implement the correct strategy for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC).

Our practical experience gained in the anti-epidemic struggles against COVID-19 last year is that it is very crucial to timely update and upgrade IPC tools and guidelines in scientific way according to the evidences, and more importantly, to establish the life and working order and rigid discipline for putting those IPC guidelines in place.

In order to achieve the global victory in the warfare against trans-boundary communicable diseases threatening mankind, the world needs to have globally concerted efforts and active cooperation of all member states, and WHO needs to play a leading role for this purpose.

The DPRK, as a member state of WHO, shall exert its competent and accountable efforts to implement the global, regional, and national strategy for IPC to effectively cope with all kinds of diseases in cooperation and collaboration with WHO.

Thank you.