



**Republic of the Gambia
Ministry of Health
The Quadrangle
Banjul**

WHA ASSEMBLY STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER GENEVA 2023

12.3 Substandard and falsified medical products

Substandard and falsified medical
products
Documents: A76/7 Rev.1 and
EB152/2023/REC/1, decision
EB152(9)

Hon Chairperson, and hon delegates,

The Gambia welcomes the reports of the Director General on substandard and falsified medical products and the decision EB152(9) recommended by the Executive Board.

The fight against the circulation of substandard and falsified (SF) medical products, especially within the African Region is critical despite the remarkable increase in government commitments in most Member States in the Region.

Indeed, The Gambia was recently affected by contaminated drugs which led to many children losing their lives. This was detected by our highly observant clinical staff after these drugs have passed regulatory processes in both the country of origin and our country.

This shows that the detection of such falsified products has become difficult. We thank the WHO Africa region and other partners for all the support we received during the period.

Strengthening the national regulatory authorities (NRAs) is critical for effective importation , registration and post market surveillance of medicines in the supply chain in is important and the Government of The Gambia is working on that with its partners. While, The Gambia is now testing medicines that will be utilized in the country, it is building its own modern quality control laboratory. .

We call on the WHO to continue to support all states especially small states to ensure they are protected from falsified drugs. The indirect consequences of detecting dangerous falsified drugs includes it negatively impacting the social determinants of health. The Health seeking behavior is adversely affected.

The Gambia's reaction of testing all drugs coming into the country is expensive and has negative impact but it is the better of the two devils. The Small states should be supported so that pooled procurements are made a reality and together with WHO we need to ensure what happened in The Gambia does not happen in any other country.

We thank the WHO for acting expeditiously in notifying all other countries in time to save more children.

We thank you

