



## **Solomon Islands Health Minister's intervention at the WHA Meeting 2023 on Agenda Item 13.3 – Substandard and falsified medical products**

Thank you chair, the EB152 noted the report (Documents: A76/7 Rev.1) on substandard and falsified medical products, containing the reports of the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Member States mechanism on substandard and falsified medical products.

The recent issue with contaminated cough syrup was very concerning for us as we needed to ensure that whatever we bring into the country and administer to our patients is effective and safe. The issue is important, because we need to ensure that whatever we bring into the country and administer to our patients is effective and safe.

Following the alert by WHO of the syrups in January, our regulatory affairs unit took immediate step of informing retail pharmacy outlets on the details of the contaminated syrup. It also carried out physical inspection to check for presence of the product of concern and found nothing of concern in the various pharmacies.

The Pharmacy Regulatory Affairs unit also liaised closely with the Therapeutics Good Administration of Australia, TGA, for technical support. While we do not have the product of concern in country, we have sent samples of cough syrups and paracetamol syrups available in country for testing by the TGA and the results returned negative.

Chair today we have two minilab kits where our local pharmacists can perform tests for substandard and falsified medicines by routinely screening randomly selected medicines and only send drugs testing positive to TGA in Australia. These two minilab kits can test up to 1000 medicines and as such my sincerest thanks to WHO for the lab kits and the training of our local pharmacists.

Solomon Islands looks forward to the ongoing support of WHO to strengthen post-marketing surveillance of safety and quality monitoring of medicines. Thank you Chair.