
WHO's relationship with the International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Taskforce

1. During the first session of the Working Group on Substandard/Spurious/Falsely-labelled/Falsified/Counterfeit Medical Products, WHO described its relationship and activities with respect to the International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Taskforce (see document A/SSFFC/WG/4). The participants discussed the future relationship of WHO with the Taskforce, which is reflected in the report of the Working Group (see document A/SSFFC/WG/5), including the need for multistakeholder collaboration.
2. Collaboration among Member States and other parties may occur at international, regional and national levels. WHO has usually been the lead in addressing the international public health perspective in such collaborations.
3. There is an obvious need for broad and intersectoral collaboration to address the topic of spurious/falsely-labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products. The mechanics of organizing the kind of broad-based collaboration envisaged remain open to discussion.
4. One of the goals of the Taskforce when it was established was to coordinate activities related to spurious/falsely-labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products. Its terms of reference, which are available to the public, include guidance on collaborating parties, structure and processes. The Taskforce aims to have a broad membership.
5. WHO is a member of the International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Taskforce and has played a key role in its establishment and in its activities. As a member among other members, WHO is not in a position to “dissolve” the Taskforce.

The way forward

6. The following options exist to address the concerns that have been expressed about the role of WHO as a member of the Taskforce:

Option 1: Member States may wish WHO to disengage or withdraw from its relationship with the Taskforce.

Option 2: Member States may recommend that WHO continue its relationship with the Taskforce, and suggest a reform of its format and procedures.

Option 3: Member States may recommend that WHO seek an alternative mechanism to the Taskforce. Options are presented in document A/SSFFC/WG/2/3 “WHO's role in the

prevention and control of medical products of compromised quality, safety and efficacy such as substandard/spurious/falsely-labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products”.

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