



Republic of the Gambia
Ministry of Health
The Quadrangle
Banjul

SEVENTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER, GENEVA 2026

Item: 12.7	Substandard and falsified medical products
Documents:	Document A79/5
Requested action:	To note the report
Time limit:	3 minutes

Chair, Director-General, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,

The delegation of **The Gambia**, speaking in alignment with the **WHO African Region**, welcomes the report under **agenda item 12.7 on substandard and falsified medical products**. We take note of the report.

Substandard and falsified medical products undermine treatment outcomes, fuel antimicrobial resistance, and disproportionately affect countries with constrained regulatory and supply-chain capacity. Addressing this challenge is therefore essential to achieving **universal health coverage, health security, and equitable access to quality-assured medical products**.

In **The Gambia**, strengthening regulatory oversight is a national priority. Our response is anchored in the **Medicines and Related Products legal framework** and operationalized through the **Medicines Control Agency**, which is mandated to regulate medical products across their life cycle—from registration and importation to distribution and post-market surveillance.

We are strengthening **market authorization procedures, inspection of ports of entry, and post-market quality surveillance**, while enhancing collaboration between the health authorities, customs services, law-enforcement agencies, and the judiciary.

In parallel, we are promoting **pharmacovigilance and reporting mechanisms** for health professionals and the public, alongside targeted awareness activities to improve early detection of suspected substandard or falsified products. These efforts are complemented by continued improvements in **public procurement and supply management systems** to ensure the availability of quality-assured medicines within the public sector.

At the regional and global levels, we underscore the importance of **information-sharing, regulatory convergence, and cross-border cooperation**, particularly within the African Region. We encourage WHO to continue supporting Member States through normative guidance, regulatory capacity-building, and the **Global Surveillance and Monitoring System**, while facilitating collaboration among national regulatory authorities.

We also recognize the growing value of **digital tools and data systems** in supporting traceability, reporting, and risk-based surveillance, while stressing the importance of aligning such tools with national capacity and long-term sustainability.

Chair,

The Gambia remains committed to safeguarding its population from substandard and falsified medical products through stronger regulation, effective enforcement, and partnership at national, regional, and global levels. We take note of the report and look forward to continued engagement with the Secretariat and fellow Member States to advance this critical agenda.

I thank you