

**Trinidad and Tobago Intervention
under Item 12.7 – Substandard and Falsified Medical Products
79th World Health Assembly, 18 to 23 May 2026**

Thank you, Chair.

Pharmaceuticals and medical devices are a cornerstone to modern health systems, yet their scarcity and high cost have fueled demand for cheaper alternatives, creating space for false and substandard products. These illicit goods threaten public health, undermine financial systems and place undue hardship on citizens who fall prey to counterfeit and substandard products.

Trinidad and Tobago notes the success of WHO's Global Surveillance and Monitoring System, which has tracked over 10,000 suspect products since 2013, and the progress on the 2024-2025 workplan in areas such as technology uptake, governance and awareness, supply chain safety and online and informal markets.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the challenge to combat substandard and falsified drugs is taken seriously. To address the issue, the Government has established an Anti-illicit Trade Task Force, bringing together various state agencies and private sector partners. Guided by five principles – strengthening legislation, building capacity, enhancing collaboration, fostering public-private partnerships, and raising public awareness – the Task Force coordinates national action against illicit trade.

In 2025, 162 pharmacy inspections resulted in 14 seizures as well as 309 seizures at ports of entry. Local legislation such as the Chemistry Food and Drugs Act, ensures imported pharmaceuticals meet international standards, while new legislation on medical devices is being drafted. A public drug database which lists 17,000 registered pharmaceuticals was created to empower citizens to verify the authenticity of medical products.

Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its commitment to the WHO Member State mechanism and supports global cooperation to strengthen supply chains, detection technologies, and risk communication. Together as Member States, we must protect populations from the dangers of substandard and falsified medical products.

I thank you.