FIP supports the Montevideo Roadmap 2018-2030 on NCDs as a sustainable development priority. Pharmacists worldwide are committed to reduce the burden of NCDs and reaffirm their commitment to the implementation of this roadmap.

On the page 2, paragraph 9

highlights investing in health workers as an essential part of strengthening health systems and social protection. ‘We will ensure a highly skilled, well-trained and well-resourced health workforce to lead actions in the field of prevention and promotion of health.’ Recognising this point, FIP is investing 2 million USD over 5 years in its Education Initiative (FIPEd). FIPEd offers multiple resources to facilitate the development of local strategies on pharmaceutical workforce through education, in order to facilitate the reform of pharmaceutical education based on locally determined needs, to ensure competent health workforce that is sufficient in number and able to cover also the future NCD needs. FIPEd tools not only benefit governments but they support national associations of pharmacists in being fully engaged with the governments in the development of a highly skilled, well-trained and well-resourced health workforce to lead actions in the field of prevention and promotion of health.

On the page 2, paragraph 10

‘We commit to improve health promotion and disease prevention, early detection, treatment, health surveillance, promoting reduced exposure to environmental risk factors, sustained management of people with or at high risk for cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic respiratory disease, diabetes, or mental health conditions.’ This is well supported by pharmacists, as reflected in the FIP-WHO Joint Good Pharmacy Practice (GPP) document (Joint FIP/WHO guidelines on good pharmacy practice: standards for quality of pharmacy services. WHO Technical Report Series, No. 961, 2011). Pharmacists are the most accessible health care professionals who are charged by their national or other appropriate (e.g. state or provincial) authorities with the management of the distribution of medicines and to engage in appropriate efforts to assure their safe and efficacious use. With the increasing public health demands, pharmacists are accepting greater responsibility that goes beyond the outcomes of medicines use. Pharmacists are evolving their practices to provide health promotion and disease prevention through educational campaigns, early detection through screening and triage, treatment through medication optimisation, and health surveillance through adherence and therapy monitoring. Pharmacists’ interventions to reduce medication waste or collect unused medicines in order to reduce exposure to environmental risk factors of pharmaceuticals are summarised in the document ‘Green pharmacy practice: Taking responsibility for the environmental impact of medicines.’ In addition, FIP is preparing a reference document on the role of pharmacists in sustained management of people with NCDs or at high risk for cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes. The document will be finalised in mid-2018 and will be accessible on the FIP website. Pharmacists’ interventions in mental health conditions are summarised in the FIP document ‘Focus on mental health: The contribution of the pharmacist.’ Additionally, examples of pharmacists’ contributions to diabetes care are available in the FIP document ‘Pharmacists’ contributions to diabetes care.’ All the above documents are accessible at www.fip.org/publications.
As highlighted on the page 3, paragraph 17, women face a double NCD burden, often assuming gender-based roles as unpaid carers of the sick. Women are the non-professional caregivers closest to health care professionals and, more often than not, are the ones who go to pharmacies and assume responsibilities for health in the household. Every pharmacy visit gives the pharmacist the unique opportunity to intervene with compassion and provide information, resources, and support to positively affect care recipients and their caregivers. FIP is now exploring how pharmacists as the most accessible health care professionals should work to empower women in their role as an informal caregiver, within family and community and through women to support the responsible use of medicines.

On the page 2, paragraph 10 we suggest to add health professional organisations to the list of participatory parties. They are the important stakeholders in sharing of best practices and implementation of specific measures and actions in order to make the roadmap a success. They are also important in validating the applicability of the measures at local level.

In summary, pharmacists are an important part of the health care professional team reducing NCDs burden. Pharmacists, the most accessible health care professionals, often serve as the first point of contact with the patients. As multiple evidence has shown, they are well positioned to reduce the burden of NCDs through early detection, health promotion and disease prevention services and sustained management of people with or at high risk for NCDs or mental health conditions. Pharmacists are key to implement positive changes outlined in this roadmap.

About FIP: The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is the global federation of 139 national organisations of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists dedicated to improving the access to and value of appropriate medicine use, and contributing to changes in science, practice and health policies worldwide. FIP represents over three million pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists worldwide and endeavours to advance the role of the pharmacist through such partnerships as our official NGO status with the World Health Organization (WHO).