Launch of the WHO-FIP Statement
Inauguration by the President of India
THE ROLE OF PHARMACISTS IN TUBERCULOSIS CARE AND CONTROL

Background

Every year, more than 9 million new cases of tuberculosis (TB) occur and nearly 2 million people die of the disease. Nearly half a million cases have the multidrug-resistant form of the disease.

While Asia bears the largest burden of the disease, sub-Saharan Africa has the highest incidence of drug-susceptible TB and Eastern Europe has the highest incidence of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB).
Joint action

1. WHO and FIP have jointly drawn up the basis for action-oriented collaboration between national TB programmes and national pharmacy associations in the fight against TB and MDR-TB.

2. WHO undertakes to promote the need for these collaborative actions to WHO Member States, their national TB programmes and drug regulatory authorities as well as to Stop TB partners worldwide.

3. FIP undertakes to promote these actions to national pharmacy associations worldwide and, through them, to individual pharmacists and to the health authorities of respective countries.

4. Both WHO and FIP will use this joint statement to harness the contribution of pharmacists in delivering health services as part of strengthening health systems.
Collaborative actions

WHO and FIP urge national TB programmes and national pharmacy associations, to develop and implement plans for engaging pharmacists in the fight against TB within the context of national health systems and services. These plans should take into consideration the following actions that would enable national TB programmes and national pharmacy associations to work together to:

1. Provide joint stewardship in developing policy guidance and resource mobilization to engage pharmacists in TB care and control. For this purpose, to undertake, as a first step, situation assessments to understand the current role and potential contribution of pharmacists in health service delivery in general, and TB care and control in particular. The process should also entail consultation and collaboration with relevant stakeholders to identify educational, managerial and regulatory approaches to systematically engage pharmacists in TB care and control.

2. Undertake orientation and training of pharmacists to enable their effective contribution to TB care and control, taking into account the local context. To this effect, the training curricula of pharmacy students may require updating to incorporate current knowledge and practices in TB care and control.