Forum: Economic and Social Council

Question of: Responding to the Increasing Problem of Counterfeit Medications and Foods

Submitted by: Germany

Co-submitted by: Angola, Belarus, Canada, Consumers International, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Malta, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, USA, World Health Organization

The Economic and Social Council,

Alarmed by the dramatic increase of counterfeit medications,

Reminding all nations that counterfeit medications may contain inappropriate quantities of active ingredients, or none, may be improperly processed within the body, may contain ingredients that are not on the label,

Taking into consideration that 84% of all counterfeit products are produced in certain countries,

Fully alarmed by the fact that these sales affect not only the intellectual property profits of artists or businesses, which also reduces the amount of taxes that are collected, but also the reduction of annual budgets, such as jobs,

Deeply disturbed by the fact that 16% of counterfeit drugs contain wrong ingredients and 17% of counterfeit drugs contain the incorrect amount,

Deeply concerned that 60% of the counterfeit drugs that are sold every year have no active ingredients in them,

1. **Draws** attention to the identification of the biggest offenders, offering the greatest number of counterfeit goods in the most highly trafficked venues, and address them first;

2. **Proposes** the use of scratch labels with individual pins on verified pharmaceuticals products that can and will:
    a. be checked by consumers via SMS or the internet,
    b. support the pursuit of the illegal manufacturing and selling of counterfeit medications,
    c. introduce the idea of local controlling by neutral and independent third parties;

3. **Calls upon** all nations to set up an educational program to teach their inhabitants the danger of counterfeit products monitored by the WHO, by:
    a. using different kinds of media to spread the message,
    b. creating websites on which citizens can find information regarding the problem;

4. **Seeks** to combat the issue of counterfeiting of medications and foods on a global scale through the means of the International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Task Force (IM PACT) by increasing funding and contribution of law enforcement assets into the task force;

5. **Strongly urges** every member state to contribute to the International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Task Force to ensure the security of their own citizens and the health and safety of the citizens of other member states;

6. **Further invites** every member state to pass necessary legislation to ensure eligible matters against counterfeiting of medications and foods are in place, including but not limited to:
    a. outlawing the process of counterfeiting within their borders,
    b. enforcing existing legislation against counterfeiting of medications and foods,
    c. opening a possibility of cooperation between member states in combating counterfeiting of medications and foods on an international level;

7. **Suggests** devoting a special attention to counterfeit drugs;

8. **Emphasizes** all nations to:
    a. develop tools to enable the traceability and localization of drugs,
    b. distribute control apparatus to wholesale distributors and retail pharmacies for drug identification and authentication and train staff in their use,
    c. restrict the number of intermediaries in the supply systems while preserving free competition,
    d. multiply inspections among the wholesalers and retailers, particularly targeting those who engage in parallel imports and o are more exposed to the risks of intrusion of falsified medicines,
    e. quickly and effectively analyze the suspected drugs and centralize “identification sheets” for each infringing product in a central and unique database,
    f. purchase products on the internet to test and subsequently, if necessary, to pursue with thorough investigations and possible prosecution;

9. **Introduces** the idea of local controlling by neutral and independent third parties, by:
    a. continuous and unheralded controls in companies and producing factories in the producing country,
    b. unannounced inspections in local companies at various cycle;

10. **Encourages** all nations to establish a similar directive as the 2011/62/EU Directive in their own country, which:
    a. labels and serializes pharmaceutical products with unique numbers (with expiry date and batch number),
    b. ensures the authenticity and integrity of a medication,
    c. helps consumers and manufacturers to have confidence in the product;

11. **Asks** state parties to pass national legislation to criminalize the following acts on both national and international level:
    a. manufacturing of counterfeits,
    b. supplying, or offering to supply of, and trafficking in counterfeits,
    c. falsification of documents,
    d. unauthorized manufacturing or supplying of medicinal products, and the placing on the market of medical devices without them following conformity requirements;

12. **Suggests** the introduction of a voluntary UN certificate that:
    a. ensures the quality of the product by randomly determined product tests,

b. gives consumers trustworthy information about a products quality at a glance,
c. make the production of proper goods more appealing to companies;

13. **Resolves** the creation of a fund that finances the educational program stated in clause 4 and supports the implementation of the suggested national tasks stated in clause 9 (the funds will be provided by MEDCs to support LEDCs) requiring the immediate end of financing, if it is proven that the country does not spend the money for an educational program as it is stated in clause 4, 9;

14. **Decides** to stay actively seized of the matter.