Counterfeit Medicines Toolkit

3. International Action Against Counterfeit Medicines

Materials developed in collaboration with:
Regional Initiatives


2. Convention of the Council of Europe (to be adopted end-2010): will be open for signature on November 25 at the Conference of Ministers of Justice in Turkey

3. Pharmaceutical Package Proposal in the European Union: Includes specific proposal to strengthen EU legislation to better protect citizens from the serious threats posed by fake medicines (under discussion)

4. South East Asian Region: Resolution on counterfeits passed at WHO regional office meeting 2009
World Health Organization (WHO)

- Issue on WHO agenda for quite some time
  - Three WHO resolutions asking for actions to be taken (1988, 1994, 1999)
  - First WHO meeting with various partners held in 1992
  - Common concern raised by developing country regulators
  - Facilitated the creation of a dedicated Taskforce called IMPACT (2006)

- IMPACT’s launch materialized multi-stakeholder collaboration
  - International Medical Products Anti-counterfeiting Task Force
  - Launched at WHO Conference in Rome, 2006
  - Call for political engagement to act now
  - Call for collaboration among regulators, enforcement, judiciary, private sector, health professionals, patients
  - First global taskforce of its kind specific to medicines
  - Set an example to be followed in regions: IMPACT Italy, IMPACT Philippines…
Other Multilateral Organizations

- World Customs Organization (WCO)
  - In 2009, disbanded the “Standards to be Employed by Customs for Uniform Rights Enforcement (SECURE)” group and launched a new group, “Counterfeiting and Piracy (CAP)” to focus on health and safety
  - CAP will be limited to dialogue and exchanges of national experiences and discussions on WCO capacity building activities. It will not include policy making and standard setting discussions.

- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
  - Inactive; co-organizes Global Congress on Piracy and Counterfeiting with ICC’s BASCAP WCO and Interpol
Other Multilateral Organizations

- **Interpol**
  - In 2008, General Assembly adopted a resolution aimed at enhancing cooperation between regulatory authorities and the police community to combat counterfeit medical products
  - In 2009, created unit working specifically in counterfeit medicines with IMPACT
  - Various operations and training programs with collaboration of IFPMA member Companies and Pharmaceutical Security Institute (Latin America, Asia, Africa)

- **Universal Postal Union**
  - A resolution adopted by the 24th Universal Postal Congress in 2008 urged Posts, within the framework of their national laws, to assist customs to identify counterfeit or pirated articles sent through the postal network.
Chirac Foundation – “Cotonou Appeal”

- Calls for a United Nations international convention against counterfeit medicines
- Convened various Presidents and Heads of Government of African countries