



PRESS RELEASE

PHARMACISTS AND WHO AGAINST HIV AND AIDS

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A global pharmaceutical Charter against HIV-AIDS will be presented next year in September in Vancouver (Canada) by FIP and WHO. This was announced on September 3, 1996, when the *ad hoc* working group created by FIP in 1994 passed a draft document that underlines the prominent role of pharmacists and their coming co-operation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in the struggle against HIV-AIDS pandemic.

Dr. Andre Prost, Director of the World Health Organisation's Office to the European Union and WHO's Director General representative, appealed to participants that they join the battle against HIV-AIDS, "not losing sight that if it is dropped from the international political agenda, control programmes will be marginalised (...) and then the disease will become the problem of others".

The Charter will be prepared for final approval by the working group chaired by Mr. Jean Parrot, FIP Vice President, and WHO. It will include provision for active involvement in public information and health education, but also in deep searching actions for patients and their relatives: field activities in areas such as drug substitution, needle and syringe exchange and the evaluation of clinical practices and drug availability will be prominent features of this new commitment of pharmacists, world-wide.

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