Strategies to check Counterfeit Medicines.

Context

Country A is approached by group of pharmaceutical companies affiliated to the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Association (IFPMA) and advocated for new legislation to check counterfeit medicines. According to the companies counterfeit medicines kills patients. Therefore, a stringent law is important to eliminate the counterfeit medicines. To support their clams, they cite the following reports and facts.

https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/28-11-2017-1-in-10-medical-products-in-developing-countries-is-substandard-or-falsified

https://www.wipo.int/edocs/mdocs/enforcement/en/third_global_congress/third_global_congress_ref_z3.pdf

http://indexmedicus.afro.who.int/iah/fulltext/counterfeit.pdf

https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/88/4/10-020410/en/

https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.0020100

https://www.who.int/medicines/publications/qamsareport/en/

Companies submitted a model law which defines counterfeit as follows:

"a medicine, which is deliberately and fraudulently mislabelled with respect to identity and/or source. Counterfeiting can apply to both branded and generic products and counterfeit products may include products with the correct ingredients or with the wrong ingredients, without active ingredients, with insufficient active ingredients or with fake packaging."

As CSOs working on access to medicines you are requested to :

- prepare a comment on the definition and its implications for access to medicines;
- propose three policy measures to be taken to address the issue of access to quality medicines;
- communicate the comment and the proposed policy measures to the CSO groups sitting in front of you.