

THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

L'ASSOCIATION MEDICALE MONDIALE, INC
ASOCIACION MEDICA MUNDIAL, INC



World Medical Association Joint Intervention:

International Council of Nurses, ICN

International Pharmaceutical Federation, FIP

FDI World Dental Federation

World Medical Association, WMA

**62nd Session of the World Health Assembly
Geneva, May 2009**

Honourable Members of the World Health Assembly,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Medical Association, the International Council of Nurses, the International Pharmaceutical Federation and the World Dental Federation, which together form the World Health Professions Alliance -WHPA. The Alliance represents the collective views of more than 25 million health professionals.

Our organisations welcome the draft resolution submitted for your consideration, further to the report of the Commission itself entitled “Closing the gap in generation – health equity through action on social determinants of health”.

We support the holistic approach to social determinants of health taken in the report, placing health equity at the core of the matter, in order to achieve the health related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and ultimately social justice worldwide.

Regarding the health workforce, we welcome in particular the recommendation of the report directed at national governments and donors to “increase investment in medical and health personnel”. We regret however that the report in general does not give more attention to health professionals as key players in addressing the social determinants of health and inequalities they face in their daily work. Through our numbers and our presence at the frontline of health care delivery, health professionals are well positioned to embrace a model that is based on the social determinants and make an impact.

Our knowledge and grass-root experiences are unique and should be fully taken into consideration in the follow-up process of the report through a planned and comprehensive consultation with civil society. We would like therefore to recommend to the honourable members of the World Assembly to make sure that these concerns are clearly reflected in the resolution.

Concerning more specifically the health human resources brain-drain, we would like to emphasize the urgent need to develop healthy and productive work environments with a positive impact on the recruitment and retention of health professionals, and ultimately on patient outcomes. The members of the Alliance together with other health organisations are conducting a **campaign for positive practice environments, focused on positive change in the health care workplace**. We are calling on Member State parties to support our campaign with the aim of making a positive change and progress towards health equality and solidarity worldwide.

I thank you for your attention