



May 2017

WHA 70 Agenda Item 13.1: Human resources for health and implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations' High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth

Honourable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Medical Association (WMA), representing 9 million physicians worldwide.

WMA welcomes the report of the High Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth and the clear statement on investing in health. Recognizing the importance of the health workforce and the call for investment are crucial to achieve universal health coverage and the SDGs.

WMA is committed to improving health worldwide through effective and equitable health care. WMA advocates for a comprehensive health care system with primary care at the core, including health promotion, prevention, secondary, tertiary care and rehabilitation, placing persons at the center of medicine. In such a system, members of the health care team work collaboratively within their scope of practice, acknowledging the relevant expertise of other team members.

Ensuring basic rights for health professionals, decent and safe working conditions, effective recognition and a gender perspective are essential for the implementation of the report and will lead to successful recruitment and retention of health professionals. This will be even more important with the demographic trends indicating a high demand in the health workforce. WMA together with the other professions of the WHPA developed the Positive Practice Environment Campaign which exemplify what health care settings could do to foster satisfaction and resilience.

WMA underlines the key role of professional organizations in health employment policy, including their role in the regulation of the profession. It is imperative to involve them in policy decisions throughout the policy process.

With the trend of growing violence against healthcare workers, WMA reiterates the importance of the right of health care workers to safe and decent working environments, free from discrimination, coercion and violence. WMA has been a partner of the ICRC Health Care in Danger initiative for many years.

Thank you.