THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
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72ᵈ World Health Assembly
Item 12.9 Emergency and trauma care

Honorable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Medical Association, which represents 9 million physicians around the world.

As physicians we recognize the importance of a systematic approach to emergency care as described in WHO Framework on Emergency Care systems. Emergency care has to be centered on acuity-based triage, early recognition, resuscitation, and simple initial management and referral. To reach this, a strengthened health sector leadership and a well-trained workforce are crucial. The World Medical Association urges WHO and member states to develop further on ways to equip and educate the health workforce to address patients' needs. We recommend that emergency care training be included in the curricula of all future doctors, and that education in this field be conducted under the supervision of skilled physicians.

Furthermore, the World Medical Association welcomes the recommendation to conduct assessment of emergency care systems and identify priorities for context-relevant action. Coordination of pre-hospital and facility-based care is essential, and emergency care physicians should maintain a leading role.

Finally, the WMA supports WHO recommendation to ensure the safety of healthcare workers and healthcare facilities. The WMA urges member states to establish clear protocols and to take action to protect the personal safety of physicians, other responders, and patients. We wish to highlight that while the global community must work to address incidents of violence perpetrated by military and terrorist groups, we must also work to addressing everyday violence which unfortunately often goes unreported.

We look forward to collaborating with WHO on these issues. We aim at providing timely care for all the acutely ill and injured.

Thank you,