**WHO Executive Board 146th session**

**EB146/6 – Primary health Care**

Distinguished Delegates,

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

The WMA welcomes the Director General’s draft Operational Framework for Primary Health Care. WMA acknowledges the high-level political declaration on Universal Health Coverage and the Astana Declaration on Primary Health Care (PHC), which highlights the ‘*fundamental right of every human being to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health’* through the commitment to strengthen PHC. Further, we welcome the significance given to supporting the health workforce.

The WMA appreciates WHO's commitment to foster the comprehensive and integrated primary health care approach through the proposed levers of the draft operational framework in order to translate the Astana Declaration into action and real political commitment.

On behalf of physicians, WMA would like to highlight the following:

* To meaningfully and sustainably implement UHC, we need to build a PHC workforce that is composed of physicians, nurses and other health workers;
* PHC needs to be a comprehensive and integrated approach to delivering health promotion, disease prevention, specialized care and rehabilitation;
* Ideally, PHC should be delivered by multidisciplinary teams led by physicians;
* We highly encourage and support the WHO's advocacy efforts to increase investment in human resources for health;
* To overcome the shortage of health workers, member states should provide decent working conditions to attract and retain health professionals, particularly in rural areas.

The WMA is committed to collaborating with WHO and Member States through National Medical Associations on the implementation of PHC and the enhancement of UHC.

Thank you