

THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
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**World Health Assembly Second Special Session (WHASS2)
November 2021**

Distinguished Delegates,

Since the beginning of the pandemic, physicians and other health personnel are on the frontline and the ones who have been the most severely impacted (workload, violence, lack of PPE). The death toll of health personnel due to the pandemic is intolerable.

We strongly support the development of a WHO instrument grounded primarily on equity in prevention, preparedness and response to health emergencies and the reinforcement of health systems. The capacity of Member States to agree jointly on the urgent need for a robust legally binding instrument would be a promising indication of their authentic commitment and readiness to finally work together for the health and well-being of all people.

Echoing the Working Group recommendation to work in an inclusive and transparent manner, we demand that health professionals are fully included in the future negotiating body in charge of developing a WHO instrument on pandemic preparedness and response.

Thank you.