



**75<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly Session**  
**May 2022**

**Item 16.2 Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies**

Honorable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

The current pandemic demonstrates the acute inequities in access to lifesaving tools and treatments. The International Health Regulation alone cannot ensure effective, equitable global response and protect enough the health workforce.

The WMA, representing 9 million physicians globally, supports the development of a new international instrument on pandemic preparedness based on principles of equity and human rights. A crucial part of this instrument must be to invest and strengthening the health workforce.

The instrument should act as a global public good. It needs to be appropriately resourced and sustainably financed to meet its goals. The instrument making process should be participatory and transparent to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are adequately consulted and heard, while also striving to shield the process from undue influence from commercial interests.

Finally, the WMA strongly condemns the increasing incidents of violence against healthcare worldwide and calls for the urgent protection of health personnel and facilities.

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