



**76th World Health Assembly Session
May 2023**

Item 13.1 and 13.2 - Universal Health Coverage and Non-Communicable Diseases

Honorable chair, distinguished delegates,

I speak on behalf of the World Medical Association representing over 9 million physicians worldwide.

Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) requires concrete operational steps, including integrated service delivery for primary health care as well as optimum and safe working conditions, as outlined by the WHO Global Health and Care worker compact.

The projected shortfall of 10.2 million health workers by 2030 and, in parallel an increasing number of unemployed young physicians, make it crucial to act now with larger scale health budgets at all levels to strengthen the health system infrastructure, provide more and better job opportunities and ensure equitable access to quality health care services for all.

The national capacity to measure health data and health management systems must be reinforced so that these action-oriented outcomes provide a solid roadmap for on-ground implementation of UHC principles.

Achieving Universal Health Coverage requires as well solid multi-sectorial strategies on prevention and treatment of NCDs, based on a holistic approach comprising socio-economic considerations, so that risk factors - such as tobacco, alcohol, excess salt and sugar intake, physical inactivity and air pollution - are effectively addressed.

Thank you