

World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA)



Constituency statement to 78th World Health Assembly (May 2025)

13.3 Universal health coverage: Primary healthcare

Before I start reading the constituency statement, these are the non-state actors co-signing the statement:

- *FIP International Pharmaceutical Federation*
- *ICN International Council of Nurses*
- *WMA World Medical Association*
- *World Confederation for Physical Therapy (World Physiotherapy)*
- *IFPMA International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers*
- *International Federation of Healthcare Engineering*
- *International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IFBLS)*
- *The Network: Towards Unity for Health*
- *International Hospital Federation (IHF)*

Four organisations supporting this statement are members of the World Health Professions Alliance, representing over 41 million dentists, nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists and physicians.

UHC is integral to achieving health for all, yet progress is threatened by massive funding cuts currently ravaging the global health ecosystem, compounding the deleterious effects of long-term de-prioritization of health services by governments.

Global health workforce shortages persist, albeit uneven progress, and recent funding cuts have caused job losses and significant training disruptions. This risks migration of qualified staff and difficult working conditions and higher risks of workplace violence for remaining staff, threatening the achievement of UHC and PHC.

The resolution “Strengthening health financing globally” seeks to orient health financing towards a more sustainable and efficient model. Investing in health

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professionals is a cost-effective solution because they can ensure consistent and safe care delivery through evidence-based practices delivered within strict regulatory frameworks and codes of ethics. In unregulated environments, there is an increased risk of inconsistent care, errors, and compromised patient safety. The inevitable downstream costs far outweigh the investment in a highly-educated health professional workforce.

Interprofessional collaboration, outlined in [WHPA's policy statement](#), can help reduce healthcare costs by minimising duplication, preventing errors and improving continuity of care through multidisciplinary teamwork.

As policy makers seek efficiencies in health financing, we emphasize that long-term investments in health professionals are a cost-effective intervention to deliver improved patient outcomes and progress towards UHC.¹

[1] See [WHPA's statements for UHC Day 2024](#)