

Ladies and Gentlemen, esteemed colleagues, and honored guests,

Today, standing before you, I assume the presidency of the World Medical Association with profound honor and an overwhelming sense of responsibility.

In September 1947, during the devastating aftermath of the Second World War and the tragic loss of human dignity, physicians from 27 nations gathered in Paris for the 1st General Assembly of WMA. The purpose was clear and unyielding: to safeguard professional independence of physicians. From that pivotal moment, the WMA became the guardian of medical ethics and human health across the world.

For nearly eight decades, we have stood at the forefront of defending human rights and global health. Today, it represents more than 10 million physicians worldwide through 117 constituent members. Every achievement was made possible by the dedication, courage, and solidarity of physicians across the world.

Our mission is to serve humanity. We seek the highest possible international standards in medical practice and medical ethics, while working to achieve healthcare for all people. This mission does not remain confined to declarations and policy documents: the act of listening carefully to a patient in the clinic; the courage to treat the wounded without discrimination in conflict zones; to protect research participants; and to hold governments and institutions accountable for public health.

We live in an era of remarkable medical achievement and, at the same time, an era of profound global health crisis. In one part of the world, genomic medicine and AI are transforming diagnosis and treatment. In another, people still lack access to basic primary healthcare. In some hospitals, robots assist with surgery; elsewhere, there are shortages of trained health professionals, essential medicines, and safe facilities.

We live in a time when medical information is abundant, yet misinformation and distrust threaten public health. We face challenges that no single country, profession, or institution can solve alone.

As we look around us today, we find ourselves standing before many formidable challenges as the world is changing rapidly, and medicine facing complex, unprecedented crises.

First, we face deepening global health inequities and the collapse of essential healthcare systems. While cutting-edge medical technologies extend life in one part of

the world, millions in underserved regions perish from preventable diseases or a lack of basic medication. The unequal distribution of vaccines, essential medicines, and medical resources is not merely an operational failure—it is a profound moral challenge to humanity.

Second, we are confronting the devastating impact of the climate crisis on global health. Climate change is no longer a distant threat; it is a present reality unfolding in our clinics and hospitals every day. Rising heat-related illnesses, shifting vector-borne disease patterns, and the destruction of health infrastructure by natural disasters are urgent medical emergencies that demand an immediate global response.

Third, we are facing a severe crisis of physician burnout, and workplace safety. Burnout is not a personal weakness, but a system failure. A physician who is depleted cannot heal and will eventually have no one left to heal. In regions torn by conflict, attacks on hospitals and healthcare personnel continue unabated in blatant violation of international law. Furthermore, deteriorating working conditions and excessive legal risks are driving physicians away from the medical profession.

Fourth, we must navigate the ethical frontiers of emerging technologies, such as AI and digital healthcare. While AI offers unprecedented opportunities for diagnostics and care, they also raise critical questions regarding patient data privacy, algorithmic bias, the widening digital health divide, and the potential erosion of human-centered care.

During my presidency, I pledge to lead our association around six commitments to turn these challenges into opportunities.

First, Strengthening Primary Healthcare and Closing the Global Infrastructure Gap

A resilient and sustainable health system rests upon a robust foundation of primary healthcare. We will not only deepen our strategic partners to advocate for policies that ensure fair and equitable distribution of essential medical resources to the most vulnerable communities, but also encourage NMAs to engage more actively collaborate and cooperate to fill this gap.

Second, Safeguarding Professional Autonomy, Independence, and Protecting the Next Generation of Physicians

Professional autonomy, independence—the freedom of a physician to make independent clinical judgments solely in the best interest of the patient—is a non-negotiable core value

of medicine. Furthermore, we will continue and expand global mentorship initiatives and working-environment reform campaigns to ensure that our young doctors do not suffer burnout, but are empowered to pursue their calling with pride and protection.

Third, Establishing Next Level Medical Ethics for the Digital Era

As AI and digital innovations become deeply integrated into clinical practice, the WMA must serve as the global moral compass. We will establish clear, human-centric ethical guidelines to ensure that technology serves as a compassionate tool that enhances and augments—rather than replaces—the healing touch and clinical wisdom of the physician

Forth, Building Disaster Preparedness and Climate-Resilient Systems

Climate change and environmental degradation are increasingly threatening human health. These are not only environmental issues, but also a matter of many health-related problems. The WMA continue to work with NMAs to build disaster preparedness and climate-resilient health systems through close cooperation and collaboration.

Fifth, Upholding Medical Neutrality and Safety of Healthcare Workers

Medical neutrality and the safety of healthcare workers are under threat in conflicts around the world. Health professionals and medical facilities must be protected. The WMA will continue to defend international humanitarian law and the ethical neutrality of medicine with greater determination..

Sixth, Building a Stronger WMA Future by Opening the Door Wider

I want to invite more of our younger colleagues into the heart of WMA. Junior doctors and medical students carry the energy, digital fluency, and moral impatience that every profession needs. Let them help us lead. And let us make sure that the voices of women in medicine, and of physicians from the smallest and most resource-limited national associations, are heard at every table where we make decisions.

Honored delegates, colleagues, and friends:

We come from different countries, different health systems, and different political realities. We will not always agree. That is not a weakness of this Association; it is what makes it valuable and democratic. We must respect differences in national law and culture. But there must be no retreat from the basic principles of human dignity, patient rights, and professional autonomy and independence.

Medicine is not merely an occupation, nor is a physician simply a provider of technical expertise. We, as physicians, stand beside human beings in their most vulnerable moments, bringing light, comfort, and hope into the depths of suffering, and our best for every patient to recover his or her own life with dignity..

No single doctor, no single national medical association, and no single country can overcome current and future global waves alone. But when we hold hands across continents—when we ensure that no physician in a developing nation feels isolated, that no doctor in a war zone feels abandoned, and that no young physician loses hope—the WMA becomes the most powerful shield protecting human health and dignity.

When future generations look back on our time, let them remember us not merely by the titles we held, but by how many lives we touched, how many doctors we protected, and how strong a legacy of care we left behind.

Like a single candle that burns brightest in the deepest darkness, let the dedication of all physicians illuminate our shared world with warmth, health, and hope. I pledge to run at the very forefront of this mission, serving you and our profession with all my heart.

I ask you, as I take on this responsibility: share with me your ideas, and show me your disagreements. Tell me where we are failing. Tell me what your members need. And I promise you this: I will listen, I will learn, and I will navigate through with you.

I invite every one of you to walk this path together with me. Let us unite our wisdom. Let us strengthen our solidarity as 'One" and let us move forward together—with courage, with clarity, and with compassion. Together, we can change the world with disease and disaster into recovery and resilience.

Lastly, I would like to finish my address by thanking my family, especially my wife, who have always encouraged and supported me for more than 40 years.

To my daughter and my son: I must admit that I have not been a very good father, but you always cheered me up without too many complaints. I hope and believe that there is still time and chance to make up, but until then, from the bottom of my heart, I love you.

Finally, thank you very much, everyone, for listening and sharing my thoughts and stories.