

**Statement by Medicus Mundi International to the 138th session of the Executive Board
on agenda item 10.1 Health workforce and services**

Thank you for the opportunity to address the distinguished EB members MMI and PHM.

We welcome the draft **global strategy on human resources for health (document EB138/36)** as a means to accelerate progress towards health systems strengthening, which is also fundamental to the much debated global health security issue. We also welcome the **proposed draft resolution (EB138/CONF./5)** that urges for adequate financing. It is crucial that fiscal policies are no limitation for public sector expenditure. In addition, the Right to Health is a right of all citizens. All MS have a duty to assist other governments, technically and/or financially, to realize the full realization of this right.

Further, the strategy is at risk to lack implementation as we have too often seen a gap occurring between policies and their implementation. We are concerned by an instrumentalist, utilitarian perspective on the role of health workforce in economic growth and labour markets. We urge MS to emphasize the intrinsic value of a competent workforce in improving health outcomes and reducing health inequalities.

We welcome the increased number of countries who have identified a ‘national authority’ for the purposes of the **WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel**. We would like to see a more comprehensive analysis of data collected through the national reports in the Secretariat report to be shared with WHA69 – knowing that the Secretariat relies on information provided by MS.

We stress that a fundamental shortfall of the Code is the lack of provisions on compensation and its standing as a legally non-binding instrument. We believe that WHO could do more to promote the implementation of the Code including investing in developing the capacity in African and Asian MS and to undertake actions, such as exploring feasibility of compensation to sending countries.

Thank you.

(300 words)

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