

Wednesday 20 May 2015 | 17:45 – 20:00

Room IX | Palais des Nations

WHA side-event

# Global human resources for health governance

17:45 – 18:45

## What are the health workforce implications of WHO resolutions?

An **adequate, equitably distributed, motivated and performing workforce** represents a critical enabler for the attainment of national health objectives, as well as global health targets set by the international community. Despite representing the main arena for global health governance, the World Health Assembly often does not consider health workforce implications of its resolutions and recommendations. For example aspirational targets were set for the Millennium Development Goals and within the context of a number of strategies and action plans for various disease priorities, but without due regard to their feasibility and implications from a health workforce perspective.

Goals and plans that have proper planning and financing for the health workforce are much more likely to be successful. Evidence collated by GHWA in support of the development of **WHO's Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health** (for discussion by the 69th World Health Assembly in May 2016) included a review of the WHA resolutions generated between 2000 and 2014, and noted the increasing frequency of recommendations that call for strengthening the health workforce. During this period, WHO member states generated 374 WHA resolutions on technical themes: many of them included reference to HRH, calling for the development of HRH policy, data/information, and education/training of individual health personnel for skills enhancement. The GHWA Board (including the WHO Secretariat) has encouraged further debate and new evidence on whether WHO Member States would benefit from improved mechanisms to assess the health workforce and health systems implications resulting from the technical or policy recommendations in WHA resolutions.

### Programme

Short inputs by a WHO member state and the evidence report from civil society representative are followed by an open discussion.

### Organizers and co-promoters

- World Health Professions Alliance WHPA
- Global Health Workforce Alliance GHWA
- IntraHealth International
- International Federation of Medical Students' Associations IFMSA

19:00 – 20:00

## WHO Global Code of Practice: initial achievements and future challenges

The **WHO Global Code of Practice (Code) on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel** adopted by the 63rd World Health Assembly in 2010 sets forth ten articles advising both source and destination countries of health workers migration on how to address present and expected shortages in the health workforce; approach the recruitment of health personnel; and strengthen health systems.

The 2010 WHA resolution requested **the first review of the relevance and effectiveness of the Code** be made during the 68th World Health Assembly. An expert advisory group (EAG) carried out the review and will submit its report to the WHA for consideration. The side event will provide an opportunity to get further insights and assessments from members of the EAG.

The Code itself and its implementation are both **a success story and a matter of concern**. At the side event, member states and civil society representatives present some of their "hurrahs and headaches" with the Code, provoking a debate on what is needed to make/keep the Code relevant and effective.

### Programme

Short inputs by a WHO member state and a civil society representative and by a cochair of the WHO Expert Advisory Group on the review of the WHO Global Code of Practice (EAG) are followed by an open discussion.

Updates and enquiries: [www.bit.ly/WHA-codeevent](http://www.bit.ly/WHA-codeevent)

### Organizers and co-promoters

- Medicus Mundi International – Network Health for All
- Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative HWAI
- European project "Health workers for all" HW4All
- Global Health Workforce Alliance GHWA
- WHO, Health Workforce Department
- WHO, Expert Advisory Group on Code Review

**Language:** English only, no translations

Side event followed by an informal **reception**

**Twitter:** #workforce2030 #WHA68