Statement on Digital Health and AI

158th session of the WHO Executive Board

15. Harmonization of regulatory approaches, governance and standards for data, digital health and artificial intelligence in the health sector

2 February 2026

WONCA welcomes the report on harmonizing governance and standards for AI and digital health. As AI shifts from pilots to core health infrastructure, we urge Member States to prioritize human-centered digital transformation in Primary Healthcare.

Digital tools, including large multimodal models, offer transformative potential for early disease detection and reducing administrative burdens on an overstretched workforce. However, without robust governance, they can undermine patient privacy and widen health inequalities.

WONCA calls for the formal integration of family doctors into the design and oversight of AI tools to ensure clinical safety, transparency, and accountability. Digital health must empower—not replace—the continuity of care provided by PHC teams. WHO should support Member States to build digital literacy and practical training for the PHC workforce, so innovation advances equity and patient safety.