Statement on Africa Health Workforce Agenda, 2026-2035

76th WHO Regional Committee for Africa (RC76)

Agenda item 8: Africa Health Workforce Agenda, 2026-2035: a strategy for sustainable planning, training and retention of health workers.

26 August 2026, Addis Ababa.

Family physicians are well-trained generalist doctors who can reduce the competency gap in multidisciplinary teams within primary health care and primary hospitals. They help manage people with more complex medical problems, act as consultants to the clinical teams, build capacity, and improve quality and patient safety.

Strong evidence shows that continuity, coordination and comprehensiveness deliver better outcomes, patient safety and stronger communities across the life course. These are the hallmarks of person-centred family medicine.

The World Organization of Family Doctors in the African Region shares the concerns expressed in the Africa Health Workforce Agenda regarding this competency gap and the need for a functional workforce to achieve universal health coverage.

WONCA Africa calls on WHO and Member States to support the scale-up and development of training programmes for family physicians, for example, the new East, Central and Southern African College of Family Physicians, and deploy graduates within primary health care teams and primary hospitals.