Statement on health and care workforce

156th session of the WHO Executive Board

Pillar 1: One billion more people benefiting from universal health coverage

12. Health and care workforce

4 February 2025

Distinguished Members of the Executive Board,

As you shape the future health workforce, we urge you to prioritize family doctors as essential members of primary healthcare (PHC) teams. Working alongside nurses, social workers, and other professionals, family doctors provide comprehensive, patient-centred care across prevention, chronic disease management, mental health, and rehabilitation—ensuring continuity and accessibility for all.

WONCA, the World Organization of Family Doctors, is committed to advancing education and professional development for family doctors, equipping them with skills in telehealth, point-of-care diagnostics, and other innovations to meet evolving healthcare needs.

Aligned with WHO's Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health, strengthening family doctors within interprofessional PHC teams is vital to addressing medical deserts, reducing health inequities, and achieving Universal Health Coverage.

Investing in family medicine will build resilient, equitable health systems that leave no one behind.

Thank you.