Statement on universal health and preparedness review

156th session of the WHO Executive Board

Pillar 2: One billion more people better protected from health emergencies

18. Universal health and preparedness review

4 February 2025

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

As the leaders of primary healthcare teams, family doctors are central to ensuring continuity of care, coordinating services, and supporting public health measures. Their role in health crisis preparedness is vital, from managing chronic patients to facilitating vaccinations.

The WHO Health EDRM Framework emphasizes the need for all health system actors in emergency planning, yet family doctors remain underrepresented in national and global crisis response bodies. WHO and Member States must urgently address this gap by formally integrating family doctors into decision-making. Their direct patient engagement ensures effective, community-centred responses and strengthens health system resilience.

We urge WHO and Member States to act now, ensuring stronger preparedness, better health outcomes, and greater public trust.

Thank you.