

Agenda Item 8.3

Strategy and Plan of Action to Improve Quality of Care in Health Service Delivery 2020–2025: Final Report Document CD63/INF/3

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The World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) welcomes and supports PAHO's guidance for strengthening long-term care systems. This action is increasingly urgent as the world's populations age and more people live with chronic diseases, disabilities and complex health and social care needs.

Family doctors and multidisciplinary primary care teams are central to this response. Through prevention, early diagnosis, ongoing management and coordination across services, they help people maintain their health, independence and quality of life. Sustainable investment in primary care, supported by appropriate policies, a well-trained workforce and adequate resources, is essential to improving the accessibility, quality and equity of long-term care.

National policies must also address the social determinants of health, recognise and support the vital contribution of informal caregivers, and reduce the stigma that may prevent people from seeking or receiving care. Attention should be given to frail and vulnerable populations, and communities affected by emergencies or conflict.

Wherever possible and appropriate, we should aim to provide long-term care within people's homes and communities, with the coordinated support of various social services.

WONCA therefore advocates sustained and equitable financing, measurable national targets, transparent monitoring and clear accountability. Strengthening primary care within long-term care systems will help countries build healthier, more inclusive and resilient communities in which every person can age and live with dignity.

