

## STATEMENT BY THE WORLD ORGANIZATION OF FAMILY DOCTORS (WONCA)

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### **Agenda item: WPR/RC68/6 Health promotion in the Sustainable Development Goals**

The World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA), see [www.globalfamilydoctor.com](http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com), represents members from more than 150 countries in all regions of the world, and brings together those who are committed to developing family medicine as a key discipline for stronger and more effective health systems. Family medicine /general practice as a primary care specialty is currently present in a majority of countries of the Western Pacific region.

We welcome the World Health Organization's Regional Office For The Western Pacific commitment to health promotion, and we support the Regional Action Plan on Health Promotion in the Sustainable Development Goals (2018–2030).

WONCA supports reforms in the health workforce, particularly welcoming strengthening capacity through the enhancement of health promotion human resources. Adequate investment in the health-care workforce, including the development of general practice and family medicine, is needed to provide equitable and integrated care. We recommend that, to meet the full recommendations, all parties recognize that family medicine is the key specialty whose competencies and scope of practice allow comprehensive, coordinated and person centred care that meets multiple medical needs for patients and communities over time. Family doctors, working with other primary healthcare and health promotion workers, can integrate patient needs for prevention, and acute and chronic care across disease groups, in a way that centers care on the particular individual, family, and their community context. When appropriately trained and working within an adequately resourced clinical setting, family doctors have been shown to be both cost-effective, valuable and able to improve health outcomes for entire populations. All countries have the potential to transform their health workforce by training more family doctors as a critical part of a multidisciplinary team providing integrated, people-centred primary health care – the foundation of universal health coverage.

WONCA calls for a family doctor for every family. This means that every family has access to a caring committed family doctor working with other primary health care providers, including dedicated nurses and community health workers to provide comprehensive continuing care to all people.

WONCA commits our organization to continuing to work with the WHO WRPO and its constituencies in Member States to achieve these outcomes, as it does to achieve the overall goal of health for all.