

STATEMENT BY THE WORLD ORGANIZATION OF FAMILY DOCTORS (WONCA)

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Agenda item: WPR/RC68/9 Regulatory strengthening and convergence for medicines and health workforce

The World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA), see 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.

WONCA applauds the Western Pacific Regional Action Agenda on Regulatory Strengthening, Convergence and Cooperation for Medicines and the Health Workforce which supports strong, well established regulatory systems for health workers characterized by the enactment of recent or recently amended legislation. WONCA is of course particularly interested in regulation of primary care medical practitioners (family doctors) and promotion of appropriate and specialised undergraduate and postgraduate education as well as mandated continuing professional development (CPD) for established doctors.

WONCA's interest in regulation has led to the development of numerous standards and publications to enable our member organizations to better address these issues. In addressing these issues, we should also be able to improve prescribing and quality use of medicines.

We are seeing some great developments in family medicine in this region of the world. As you develop new ideas for primary health care, look at WONCA's *Global Standards For Postgraduate Family Medicine education* www.globalfamilydoctor.com/PgEducationStds . These standards provide a benchmark for those developing training programs for family doctors around the world. WONCA has also developed a system to provide formal accreditation to family medicine training programs under WONCA's global standards.

In 2014, WONCA released our new *Rural Medical Education Guidebook* www.globalfamilydoctor.com/RMEG which reinforces our commitment to ensuring we meet the health care needs of the 50% of the world's population living in rural areas, as well as those in urban areas. Our aim is to deliver consistent, comprehensive, and continuous care for an individual in the context of the whole family and the community. We have to know all about the body systems and how to provide appropriate and sensitive care through the understanding between population health and the health of individuals in our communities.

In 2016, we released *the WONCA Global Standards for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Family Doctors*. www.globalfamilydoctor.com/CPDstds These aid the design and structure of CPD programmes for family doctors to reinforce lifelong learning. They also offer a set of globally recognised standards developed through a family medicine perspective which could provide feedback on existing CPD programmes.

WONCA is also part of a global movement to transform medical education by making it more socially accountable. This involves seeking a commitment by the world's medical schools to direct their education, research, and service activities towards the priority health concerns of the community, region, or nation that they serve. Such responsibility to society should guide every medical school and the scope of their activities.

We thank you for considering these relevant documents.