

**Statement by Medicus Mundi International to the 138th session of the Executive Board  
on agenda item 10.1 Health workforce and services**

*Thank you for the opportunity to address the distinguished EB members on behalf of MMI and PHM.*

*We welcome the draft **global strategy on human resources for health** as a means to accelerate progress towards health systems strengthening, which is also fundamental to the much debated global health security issue. We also welcome the **proposed draft resolution** that urges adequate financing. It is crucial that fiscal policies are no limitation to public sector expenditure in this field. The Right to Health is a right of all citizens and all MS have a duty to assist other governments, technically and/or financially to ensure it's full realisation.*

*Unfortunately, the strategy is at risk of non-implementation: we have too often seen a gap between policies and their implementation. We are concerned that WHO is relying on an instrumentalist, utilitarian argument regarding the role of health workforce in economic growth and labour markets to drive implementation. We urge MS to emphasize the intrinsic value of a competent workforce in improving health outcomes, reducing health inequalities and assuring the right to health.*

*We welcome the increased number of countries which have identified a 'national authority' for the purposes of the **WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel**. We would like to see a more comprehensive analysis of data collected through the national reports in the Secretariat report to be shared with WHA69.*

*Two fundamental shortcomings of the Code are the lack of provision for financial compensation to sending countries and its standing as a legally non-binding instrument. We believe that WHO could do more to promote the implementation of the Code including investing in developing the necessary capacity in African and Asian MS and to undertake action, such as exploring the feasibility of compensation to sending countries.*

*Thank you.*

**The statement will be delivered by Anke Tijtsma**  
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