

Statement to the 67th World Health Assembly
on agenda item 15.8 Follow-up of the Recife Political Declaration on Human Resources for Health
Delivered by Remco van de Pas

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the opportunity to address the distinguished members of the World Health Assembly on behalf of Medicus Mundi International, the European civil society coalition “Health workers for all and all for health workers” and the People’s Health Movement.

First of all, we endorse the remarks in the Brazilian proposal regarding the importance of HRH issues and appreciate the work of the Brazilian government and other co-sponsors in making the Recife Conference a success.

However there is a number of **key issues avoided in the Recife Political Declaration**, in particular: the fiscal space for investing in HRH, the continuing brain drain and the need to compensate source countries, and finally the need to strengthen national training institutions in the global South.

Accordingly we urge member states to consider **an amendment to the Brazilian resolution** which would strengthen the accountability of donors, governments and multilateral actors to:

- Ensure that **economic governance arrangements and fiscal space enables the development of a strong national health workforce as a long-term investment** in the wellbeing of the people and the economy of a country. The return on investment to employ a health worker is many times higher than to bail out a bank.
- **Promote equitable access to health care** by investing especially in health workers at primary and community levels and in community structures to facilitate citizens’ voices.
- **Improve investment in health workforce development**, including salaries and social protection, and in national training institutions in order to rapidly increase numbers of HRH.
- Respect and implement the **Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel including additional enforceable legislation and redistribution mechanisms** to compensate for the international ‘brain drain’ that exacerbates global health inequalities.

Thank you.

(287 words – text only)

Contact:

Thomas Schwarz, schwarz@medicusmundi.org
phone during WHA: +41 799 50 52 51