

## WHA72: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET 2020–2021

### ITEM 11.1

IntraHealth International commends the World Health Organization (WHO) for its support to strengthen the global health workforce and global leadership to address the most acute gaps in access to frontline health workers in low- and middle-income countries. IntraHealth has worked in more than 100 countries in the last 40 years to improve the performance of health workers and strengthen the systems in which they work. In recent years, we have seen member states' commitment on this issue rise, demonstrated through support of the Workforce 2030 Strategy and resources and technical assistance devoted to health workforce data collection and capacity development.

In developing universal health coverage norms and strategies, we reiterate the importance of including health workforce metrics and baselines. Access to health workers who receive adequate remuneration and whose jobs meet the definition of decent work as stated in SDG 8 must be part of the definition of universal health coverage.

IntraHealth commends the WHO Secretariat for its commitment to develop and strengthen national health workforce policies and strategies to address the projected growing gaps in access to health workers, especially in low- and middle-income countries. The budget presented at this assembly must take into account the funding needed to achieve the goals laid out in the Workforce 2030 Strategy. We expect the proposed budget to reflect the importance of these goals and the pressing need to address critical workforce shortages.

And as women make up 70% of the health workforce while half of that work goes unpaid, we urge the WHO to devote funding to removing the barriers that women face within the health workforce to ensure health workforce demand is met.

## CONTACT

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