

INTRAEALTH INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT AT 70TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

May 2017

13.1 HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS' HIGH-LEVEL COMMISSION ON HEALTH EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

IntraHealth International calls for approval of the five-year action plan of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth. The HEEG Commission's findings on the profound impact of health employment investment across the Sustainable Development Goals should prompt urgent action to support Member State-led financial packages to sustain a resilient and fit-for-purpose global health workforce.

IntraHealth and the 39-member Frontline Health Workers Coalition urge Member States to enact concrete commitments to implement the Commission's 10 recommendations. We call for crucial focus on the Commission's recommendation to "support the massive scaling up" of education and training in low-income countries, prioritizing the 15–20 countries where universal health coverage is least likely to be realized. The WHO must identify these countries and work with Member States to collect needed data, create concrete targets, and implement a financing framework.

As a leader of the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition, we also underscore the Commission's finding that health workers have become deliberate targets in conflict settings, and urge action on Commission recommendation 6.2 to develop data collection tools, methodologies, and guidance on reporting to track these attacks and their consequences. We further call on Member States and civil society to send high-level delegations and make firm financial commitments at the 4th Global Forum on Human Resources for Health in Dublin, November 2017. IntraHealth commits to harnessing our expertise, leadership and innovations in digital health, data collection, capacity building, gender equality, and youth empowerment toward achieving the Action Plan. Inadequate action on the Commission's recommendations by the international community will result in health workforce gaps remaining a crucial barrier to achieving the SDGs. We urge the new WHO Director-General to prioritize implementing the HEEG Commission's action plan.

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