



World Health Profession Alliance WHPA

Executive Board 136th Session

Agenda Item 9.3: Global vaccine action plan

Honourable Chairman, Honourable Members of the World Health Assembly,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Medical Association, the International Council of Nurses, the International Pharmaceutical Federation, the World Confederation for Physical Therapy and the World Dental Federation, which together form the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA), representing over 26 million healthcare workers in 130 countries.

Vaccine development and administration are some of the most significant interventions to improve global health, and WHPA would like to support WHO in the implementation of the Global Vaccine Action Plan.

Healthcare workers and health professional organisations play an important role in the immunisation process and should be involved in the planning and development of immunisation strategies. Early involvement will enable health professionals to understand and support the plans and effectively seize opportunities to offer immunisation to their patients.

The process of immunisation requires an environment that is well resourced with appropriate materials as well as health professionals to ensure the safe and effective administration of vaccines. The Ebola outbreak showed the importance of strong, well-equipped and well-staffed health care systems in order to continuously provide good quality care and avoid any disruptions in the delivery of services, particularly of the basic health interventions.

Furthermore, we would like to highlight the value of seasonal influenza immunisation. Seasonal influenza immunisation has been demonstrated to significantly reduce the disease burden, hospitalizations, and deaths and is highly recommended by WHO among the elderly, people with underlying health conditions, children 6-24 months old, pregnant women and healthcare workers. We suggest that seasonal influenza immunisation be included in the Global Vaccine Action Plan.

Thank you for your attention.

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