



## World Health Profession Alliance WHPA

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### Executive Board 136<sup>th</sup> Session

#### Agenda Item 6.5: Global status report on violence and health

Honourable members of the Executive Board,

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 millions of health workers worldwide.

We supported the adoption of the resolution on the role of the health system in addressing violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children. We see it as a firm and positive affirmation of the Member States' commitment to address effectively this global affliction.

We welcome the consequent development of the draft global plan of action to address interpersonal violence from a multisectoral angle. Based on our experience, we believe that only an integrated approach encompassing all relevant sectors, including health professionals, can result in comprehensive and tangible guidance for Member States to strengthen their health systems' capacity to prevent, raise awareness, detect and respond to violence.

In this context, we emphasize the need to include health professionals in the regional consultations that will be convened in 2015 with a view to developing the action plan. Health professionals have a unique role to play in addressing violence. Their face-to-face interaction is often one of the very few moments when victims can speak with confidence. Health professionals see the health problems individuals face in the context of that person, their family, community and all the other complex factors that affect their health. Furthermore, we consider that targeted and affordable training of health professionals must be further developed. This should be reflected in the action plan.

Finally, we believe that addressing violence against women and against children requires specific strategies. We therefore recommend focusing the plan of action accordingly in order to ensure a dynamic impetus and prevent the risk of diluting the overall initiative by trying to address all forms of violence in one single strategy.

Thank you for your attention.

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