



World Health Profession Alliance WHPA

65th World Health Assembly Intervention

Agenda item 13.5: Health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Council of Nurses, International Pharmaceutical Federation, World Confederation for Physical Therapy, World Dental Federation and the World Medical Association, which form together the World Health Professional Alliance (WHPA). The Alliance represents national associations in more than 150 countries, and the collective views of more than 26 million health professionals.

WHPA applauds member states and the WHO Director-general for the progress on a number of the MDG goals and targets. We are heartened by the progress made towards achieving some health-related MDGs such as reductions in child and maternal mortality, reductions in HIV and TB and the progress to scale up universal access to antiretroviral therapy. However, we remain concerned about the slow rate of progress in some of these indicators and we call on WHO, governments and others to increase investments in known and tested interventions. To this end we note with satisfaction WHO's continued efforts to scale up prevention and treatment of pneumonia as a strategy to reduce child mortality

Current challenges such as weak health systems made worse by migration and shortage of health professionals, threats to health such as pandemics, natural disasters, war and conflict and the current economic crisis will complicate progress to achieve the MDG goals by 2015. However, health professionals can impact on the health-related MDGs and we are keen to see human resources issues being given high priority.

The millions of health professionals are crucial to the achievement of the health-related MDGs and we call on WHO, governments and others to address the ongoing and in some cases worsening human resources crisis through effective recruitment and retention strategies including positive practice environments, appropriate remuneration and other incentives.

In Conclusion the end point for MDGs is only three years away. And we urge governments to provide clear direction on the way forward after 2015.