



PROMOTING EQUITY FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF CARE FOR ALL EUROPEANS

STATEMENT ON PROVISIONAL AGENDA ITEM 5 (a): ACCELERATING PROGRESS FOR EQUITY IN HEALTH IN THE CONTEXT OF HEALTH 2020 AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND IN THE WHO REGION

The organizations supporting this statement welcome the document EUR/RC69/11 on *“Accelerating progress for equity in health in the context of Health 2020 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development towards leaving no one behind in the WHO European Region”*.

We would like to draw your attention to one of the 20 principles and rights proclaimed by the European Commission in 2017: *“Everyone has the right to timely access to affordable, preventive and curative health care of good quality”*.

Wonca Europe Network EQuiP, the European Society for Quality and Safety in Family Practice, stated that:

“Equity in health care is an essential dimension of quality of health care. Equitable health care is hereby considered as health care in which the access to care, treatment, and outcome of care do not vary according to any patient characteristic different than his/her health needs.”

Wonca Europe member organizations (Mos), explored the many issues relating to “equity” in primary health care. It became obvious that “equity” should be one of the core principles determining:

- Planning
- Organization
- Behavior of practice in primary health care

This would ensure the delivery of processes of care that would lead to more equitable care focused on people’s needs, unaffected by other considerations.

For promoting equity for a better quality of care for all Europeans, we, the family physicians/general practitioners from 48 member countries of the WONCA Europe and Non State Actors (NSAs) of PHC Professionals share the WHO’s position that countries should build “universal health care systems, with a strong foundation of primary health care”. This will prepare the ground for efficient multi-sectoral actions committed to deliver high quality health care.

Actions must be focused on several areas simultaneously.

The NSAs supporting this statement urge the WHO Member States to call to action to address equity and proactively at all levels of society by:

- European politicians, governments and other decision makers to develop a **primary health care system that does not vary in quality** because of the patients' personal characteristics, such as their socioeconomic status, gender, education, ethnic origin or geographic location.
- Family doctors around Europe to be aware of the importance of **prioritizing equity when planning and delivering comprehensive, holistic health care** which includes promoting health and well-being in addition to the management of acute and chronic health problems.
- Health care professionals in Europe to focus on **interprofessional collaboration** as a key strategy in the delivery of equitable health care.
- Primary health care organizations and their all Member Organizations to engage in collaboration with governments, policy-makers, and other stake-holders, **to ensure equitable availability and acceptability of care** for all people living in Europe.
- Undergraduate and Postgraduate training to change selection processes and curricula to produce an **adequate and equitably distributed primary health care professionals** to meet population needs.

Concluding the work of WONCA Europe 's Quality and Safety Network and as the NSAs in PHC we wish to strongly emphasize that the delivery of **primary health care services should focus the available resources on patient and community needs.**

NON STATE ACTORS (NSA) & NGOS SUPPORTING THIS STATEMENT

- **WONCA Europe:** The European regional network of the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) represents more than 150,000 family doctors through 48 Member Organisations across Europe.