

**IAPO Statement on Agenda Item 5 c) Priorities for health systems strengthening in the WHO  
European Region 2015-2020: walking the talk on people centredness  
65th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe**

Thank you Chair,  
Honourable members, distinguished delegates.

The International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO) is an alliance of patient groups representing the interests of patients worldwide. Our 250 member organizations are based in more than 65 countries covering 60 different conditions. Our work is aligned with the aims of Member States to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals, communities and whole populations.

We have worked with our members to develop a Declaration on Patient-Centred Healthcare, and patient-centred principles for universal health coverage. Patients are affected by health policy and health systems decisions so have a right to be meaningfully involved at every level.

IAPO welcomes the resolutions and discussion at this meeting to promote intersectoral and interagency action, and the recognition of health literacy and the social determinants of health as crucial to tackling health inequalities.

IAPO is contributing to a WHO health workforce project that will deliver an e-book and agile resource for health professionals and students on the importance of the social determinants of health to their delivery of effective and people-centred health care.

We strongly endorse the approach taken in the EURO region to anchor action on health inequities firmly within the context of the need for strong and robust health systems. This must include robust, appropriately resourced and transparent systems and processes for monitoring and reporting progress.

We ask delegates to remember as we move forward in developing and delivering Health 2020 goals and the sustainable development goals, that all policies, programs, and strategies must be based on the fundamental right to patient-centred healthcare.

Thank you for your attention.