

**Statement to the 67th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe
on session 5 (c) ‘Towards a sustainable health workforce in the WHO European Region:
framework for action’**

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the opportunity to address the distinguished members of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe on behalf of Medicus Mundi International and the European Public Health Alliance.

We welcome the translation of the Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health into the European regional context and framework for action. Especially since it focuses on achieving (and maintaining) a sustainable health workforce.

This is of utmost importance for many of the agenda-items discussed this week. There is no global and local health security and implementation of the International Health Regulations without a proper health workforce. Access to medicines requires a health workforce to deliver them. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development/ Health 2020 cannot do without an adequate health workforce.

Crucially, health systems and competent, sustainable, health workforces require financial investments. Less money for jobs in the health sector means unemployment. This was clearly shown in the outcomes of the 2013 meeting in Oslo, Norway, on the impact of the economic crisis on health and health systems. More money means more jobs. But we want to remind you of the WHO Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel: please stay away from quick fixes through unethical international recruitment.

In order to achieve people-centred health systems and its competent, sustainable, health workforce member states – and their National authorities – need to plan, educate, recruit and retain adequate numbers of health professionals with an appropriate skills-mix inside and outside Europe. Only through intersectoral action and policy coherence between health, education, migration, development, employment, and economic policies, we can achieve the population health objectives of Health 2020, the longer-term health goals for Member States in the European Region and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in which we leave no-one behind.

Thank you.

(298 words)

***The statement will be delivered by: Linda Mans
Contact for enquiries: linda.mans@wemos.nl***