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## Oral statement for 67<sup>th</sup> session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe

### Prepared by the World Federation for Medical Education

#### For the session on Wednesday 13 September, 9.00 – 10.30, Towards a sustainable health workforce in the WHO European Region: framework for action

The World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) supports the principle of accreditation of education for the healthcare professions, in accordance with the guidelines for accreditation systems published jointly with WHO in 2005. WFME actively seeks to promote the quality of accreditation systems through promoting good practice.

WFME can provide technical support to any member state wishing to develop an accreditation system for medical education.

We note that, worldwide, around two thirds of countries with medical schools do not have a recognised accreditation system. Europe is more advanced than other regions on this measure. Of the 49 states with medical schools within WHO-Europe, 42 have an accreditation system relating to medical education but seven do not.

Through its Recognition of Accreditation Programme, WFME aims to ensure that accreditation systems are working at an acceptable and high level of quality. The WFME Recognition Criteria describe the minimum quality standards as they relate to the legal standing, accreditation process, post-accreditation monitoring, and decision-making processes of an accreditation agency for programmes and schools of basic medical education. WFME Recognition Status confers the understanding that the quality of medical education in schools accredited by the agency is at an appropriate and rigorous standard.

The guidelines and Recognition Criteria are available from the website [www.wfme.org](http://www.wfme.org), and they provide the framework for any country wishing to self-evaluate its own existing accreditation system against best practice, and the framework to approach developing a new system.

The purpose of accreditation of medical education is to ensure that medical schools are working at a high level of quality, to produce competent and caring doctors, and thereby to enhance the care of patients.