Seventy-second World Health Assembly
Committee A

Agenda item 12.3 Human resources for health (Documents A72/23 and A72/24)

Statement by International Labour Organization (ILO)

The ILO would like to commend the progress in implementing the Global Strategy on human resources for health and the WHO Global Code of Practice on International Recruitment of Health Personnel.

Despite progress, new investments in health workers are urgently needed to effectively address existing and projected health workforce shortages. More employment opportunities in the health sector are required, and decent conditions of work, including for community health workers.

Decent work is a prerequisite to equality in access to health services, and quality health care. Without health workers, achieving UHC and SDG3 will not be possible. Programmes to protect health workers from occupational hazards and risks in their daily work and in emergencies are indispensable.

The health sector is an important employment sector and contributes to job creation in other economic sectors, hence to economic growth. The ILO works with WHO and OECD in the Working for Health Programme to assist countries in unlocking this potential.

We also stand ready to work with WHO and member States in the upcoming review of the Global Code of Practice.

ILO welcomes the adoption of 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife. This coincides with the ILO General Survey on standards promoting decent work in the care economy, including the Nursing Personnel Convention, 1977 (No. 149) and its Recommendation No. 157.