

## **Proposal for a supplementary agenda item**

1. In accordance with Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Director-General has the honour to refer to the following proposal for a supplementary agenda item to be added to the provisional agenda of the Board at its 134th session.
2. A proposal was received on 13 December 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, for an additional item for the provisional agenda of the Board to be entitled: “Follow-up of the Recife Political Declaration on Human Resources for Health: renewed commitments towards universal health coverage”. The proposal was accompanied by a draft resolution.
3. This proposal and draft resolution are submitted to the Board for its consideration (see Annex).

## ANNEX

### **Follow-up of the “Recife Political Declaration on Human Resources for Health: renewed commitments towards universal health coverage”**

#### Background:

One of the most pressing crises in global health today is the shortage of human resources for health (HRH) which, according to the World Health Organization and the Global Health Workforce Alliance, now stands at 7.2 million and is set to reach 12.9 million healthcare workers by 2035. The health workforce crisis has disastrous implications for the health and well-being of millions of people, yet not enough health workers are being formed to close this gap. If not addressed now – this shortage will have serious implications for the health of people across all regions of the world.

Insufficient HRH capacity and poor workforce performance will slow progress towards the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), impose limitations on the means to achieve universal health coverage and have a negative impact on the post-2015 agenda and other global health priorities. The global shortage is especially critical in developing countries, where its effects are most severe and includes all types of health workers. Moreover, in many countries health workforce is also ageing, and replacement is a challenge.

#### Proposal for inclusion of a supplementary agenda item:

Between November 10th and 13th, Brazil hosted, in Recife, the Third Global Forum on Human Resources for Health – an initiative of the Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA), the World Health Organization, the World Bank and several other institutions, with strong participation and important contributions from civil society. The Forum produced an outcome document – “The Recife Political Declaration on Human Resources for Health: renewed commitments towards universal health coverage” - stating voluntary commitment of Governments, at country and international levels, to strengthen and improve their health workforces.

The Third Global Forum for Human Resources for Health was the largest event ever held on human resources for health, with more than 1500 participants from 85 countries, including 40 Ministers of Health. The Recife Declaration presents concrete steps for national and international actions, recognizes the leadership of WHO and invites it to take the Declaration into consideration in its future work, in particular during the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly.

The size and scope of the current crisis of human resources for health demands immediate action and continuous evaluation of solutions, strategies and policies by Member States, as it is a mounting problem, whose negative impact is felt everyday across health systems throughout the world.

The inclusion of an item on human resources for health on the agenda of EB134 will provide an important opportunity for Member States to discuss how to tackle the current crisis. In line with the outcome of the Third Global Forum on HRH, it will also maintain the momentum of this subject during the 67th World Health Assembly, strengthen a multilateral perspective for possible solutions and create synergy with the current debate on important interrelated subjects such as universal health coverage, the post-2015 development agenda and health systems strengthening, among others.

## DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Executive Board,

Having considered the “Recife Political Declaration on Human Resources for Health: renewed commitments towards universal health coverage”,

RECOMMENDS to the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Having considered the outcome document of the III Global Forum on Human Resources for Health, held in Recife, Brazil, between the 10th and 13th of November 2013;

Recognizing the leadership role of the WHO on Human Resources for Health, and the mandate given in this regard by resolution WHA63.16;

Recalling the commitment to attain universal health coverage and the need for an improved health workforce to achieve it;

Reaffirming the importance of the Kampala Declaration and the Agenda for Global Action, as well as the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, and recognizing the need to revise these commitments in light of new developments, with a view to progressing towards universal health coverage:

1. ENDORSES the call to action and the commitments made by Member States in the “Recife Political Declaration on Human Resources for Health: renewed commitments towards universal health coverage”;

2. URGES Member States:

(1) to implement the commitments made in the “Recife Political Declaration on Human Resources for Health: renewed commitments towards universal health coverage”;

3. REQUESTS the Director General:

to take into consideration the “Recife Political Declaration on Human Resources for Health: renewed commitments towards universal health coverage” in the future work of the WHO.

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