



MINISTÉRIO DA SAÚDE
Assessoria Especial de Assuntos Internacionais

156th Session of the Executive Board

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ITEM 12 - Health and care workforce

Dear Chair,

Let me begin by thanking the Director-General for his reports under this agenda item. As we commemorate the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, we must also reflect on pressing challenges such as the stark disparities in the distribution of health personnel worldwide. As reported, 23% of the world's doctors, nurses, and midwives are concentrated in high-income countries that account for only 9% of the global population, which highlights the inequities in access to healthcare between countries.

Such inequities exist also within the health workforce itself. The gender pay gap continues to persist, and those of African descent as well as migrants can face compounded barriers to fair remuneration and favorable working conditions.

I would like to recall, in this regard, that combating inequalities was one of the priorities of the Brazilian presidency of the G20. The promotion of gender equality and diversity was emphasized at the Labor and Employment Ministers declaration, which invited countries to join the Equal Pay International Coalition.

Another urgent priority is the protection and well-being of health and care workers. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the immense burden they bear, often at great personal risk. It is imperative that we safeguard their rights, working conditions, and mental health. A crucial step in this direction was the inclusion of key provisions on health workforce protection in the text of the Pandemic Agreement that is being negotiated.

Finally, we are concerned by the slowdown in progress toward addressing the global shortage of health workers, as highlighted in the report on the Global Strategy on Human Resources for



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Health, and about its impacts, in particular to developing countries that already struggle to guarantee equitable access to quality healthcare services. We thus appreciate the resolution proposed by the Philippines and Morocco on "Accelerating action on the global health and care workforce by 2030", and we are pleased to announce our decision to co-sponsor this initiative.

Thank you.