

Statement on behalf of the Republic of Moldova
Executive Board 156th Session
Provisional Agenda Item 12: Health and Care Workforce
WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health
Personnel

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Members of the Executive Board, Excellencies,

The Republic of Moldova aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and would like to speak now in its national capacity.

We acknowledge the Director-General's report on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel and welcome the continued efforts to enhance ethical and sustainable health workforce mobility.

As a country facing significant health workforce challenges, Moldova is concerned about the increasing migration of health professionals, which exacerbates workforce shortages and impacts the sustainability of our national health system. The latest findings from the fifth round of national reporting reaffirm the urgent need for robust policy measures to address health workforce disparities, particularly in countries with limited capacity to replace departing health workers.

Moldova recognizes the importance of bilateral and multilateral agreements in facilitating ethical health worker mobility while ensuring that source countries are not disproportionately affected.

For small source countries that have invested their already scarce budgetary resources in health workforce education, specialists' loss in certain fields could be fatal. Doctors will always be attracted to more developed countries, better salaries and working conditions. But beyond workforce shortages, this could hinder the capacity of countries to face health challenges, local and cross-border alike.

In this respect, we underline the importance of promoting equitable partnerships, capacity-building investments, sustainable workforce planning and migration of medical personnel based on ethical principles.

We also emphasize the need for stronger international cooperation, financial and technical assistance, and innovative strategies to improve retention and working conditions in source countries.

We commend WHO's efforts to enhance data collection and reporting through the National Health Workforce Accounts. Strengthening data-sharing mechanisms and transparency is crucial to ensure evidence-based decision-making and targeted interventions. Moldova urges all Member States to actively engage in this process and contribute to refining the Code's implementation based on emerging global health challenges.

We support the Expert Advisory Group's ongoing review of the Code's relevance and effectiveness. Moldova advocates for an updated framework that reflects contemporary workforce realities, including lessons learned from pandemic and other emergency situations, and the permanent growing demand for care workers.

An adequately staffed, motivated, and well-distributed health workforce is a collective responsibility. Moldova reaffirms its commitment to the ethical principles of the Code and will co-sponsor the draft resolution on Accelerating action on the global health and care workforce by 2030.

I thank you.