

MALAYSIA

75TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY GENEVA, SWITZERLAND 22 – 28 MAY 2022

Agenda Item No.	:	15
Title	:	Working for Health: draft 2022-2030 action plan Global health and care worker compact Global strategy on human resources for health: workforce 2030
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Intervention Note	:	

Thank you Mr. Chair,

1. Regardless of their economic development stages, many countries faced health workforce challenges and shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic. The dire predicament experienced by the healthcare systems highlights the need for governments to prioritise investment in the health economy and its inclusion in national development policies. Countries should view investment in healthcare as a repository for sustainable and continuous health development.
2. In 2022, the Malaysian government allocated RM32.4 billion to the health sector, the second-largest budget after education. A significant allocation allows focusing on building capacity to train and produce quality healthcare workers to meet the service delivery demands and the public's expectations.

3. Over the last 12 years, Malaysia has seen vast improvements in its Human Resource for Health numbers. For example, the number of doctors per 10,000 population increased from 9.11 in 2008 to 22.7 in 2020. However, health workforce distribution and the number of health workforce per 10,000 population requires further progress. The recent pandemic emphasised this gap with health workforce shortages seen in hospitals, clinics and public health activities.
4. Furthermore, Malaysia has ensured a continuous development in healthcare programs to prioritise the protection of healthcare workers from any form of violence and harassment, verbally or physically. In this regard, the Occupational and Environmental Health Unit in government health facilities plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and health of our healthcare workers. Malaysia reiterates we do not tolerate any form of violence toward healthcare workers.
5. Malaysia attaches great importance to adopting and maintaining a decent work agenda to promote the health and well-being of health workers that includes fair and equitable remuneration, a support system and social protection. The government has made various improvements to the existing allowances and benefits as part of our commitment to motivate healthcare talents in the public service and improve healthcare service delivery.
6. Malaysia welcomes the report by the Director-General on Global strategy on human resources for health: workforce 2030, as we adopt evidence-based policy decisions on our workforce. For example, we aim to achieve 2.5 doctors per 1,000 population by 2025 and 3.0 doctors per 1,000 population by 2030, based on international

benchmarking and our workload profiling. Malaysia will continue to ensure the self-sufficiency of our workforce supply and empower the professional regulatory bodies in executing their roles to provide high-quality standards of medical education, including in speciality and subspecialty training.

Thank you.