

World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA)



Constituency statement to 78th World Health Assembly (May 2025)

13.3 Universal health coverage: Primary healthcare

Before I start reading the constituency statement, these are the non-state actors co-signing the statement:

- *FIP International Pharmaceutical Federation*
- *ICN International Council of Nurses*
- *WMA World Medical Association*
- *World Confederation for Physical Therapy (World Physiotherapy)*
- *IFPMA International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers*
- *additional NSAs welcome*

Contact for NSAs to join the statement: Hoi Shan Fokeladeh, Senior Policy Advisor - woo@icn.ch

Four of the organisations supporting this statement are members of the World Health Professions Alliance, which represents over 41 million dentists, nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists and physicians globally.

UHC is integral to achieving health for all, yet progress is under threat from massive funding cuts currently ravaging the global health ecosystem, compounding the deleterious effects of long-term de-prioritization of health services by governments. As states' priorities change with unprecedented and irresponsible speed, it is the people in need of healthcare and those providing it who are suffering the consequences.

We are already facing persistent global health workforce shortages, albeit with some patchy progress, and the funding cuts have already led to job losses and significant disruptions to training, according to a WHO survey last month. The remaining staff face the impossible challenge of responding to the same health needs with far fewer resources, aggravating already difficult working conditions and increasing the likelihood of workplace violence and migration of qualified staff, threatening the achievement of UHC.

The resolution "Strengthening health financing globally" (EB156(16)) seeks to orient health financing towards a more sustainable and efficient model. Investing in health

World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA)



Constituency statement to 78th World Health Assembly (May 2025)

professionals is a cost-effective solution which provides safe, high-quality primary health care (PHC) to achieve UHC¹. PHC is itself recognized as a key driver of health system efficiency, effective utilization of resources and reductions in health care costs.

Health professionals can ensure consistent and safe care delivery through evidence-based practices delivered according to strict regulatory frameworks and codes of ethics. In unregulated environments, there is an increased risk of inconsistent care, errors, and compromised patient safety. The inevitable downstream costs, such as hospitalizations, misdiagnoses and avoidable complications, far outweigh the investment in a highly-educated health professional workforce.

Interprofessional collaboration, as set out in a [WHPA policy statement](#), can also reduce costs, with effective PHC delivered by multidisciplinary teams (MDTs). MDTs can reduce duplication and errors and improve continuity of care, resulting in improved patient outcomes.

As policy makers seek efficiencies in health financing, we emphasize that long-term investments in health professionals are an effective and cost-effective intervention to deliver significant health outcomes and progress towards UHC.

¹ See [WHPA's statements for UHC Day 2024](#)