



Constituency statement to the WHO Executive Board 152 (Jan-Feb 2023) submitted by:

FDI World Dental Federation
FIP International Pharmaceutical Federation
ICN International Council of Nurses
WMA World Medical Association
World Physiotherapy
WaterAid
International College of Surgeons
PATH
Amref Health Africa
IntraHealth International
International Society for Telemedicine and eHealth

Item 12.1

Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies

I am speaking on behalf of the International Council of Nurses, which is part of the World Health Professions Alliance. The WHPA is pleased to be strengthening its collaboration with WHO, formalized in November last year via a Memorandum of Understanding.

We appreciate the proposal to establish a Global Health Emergency Council and underline that to achieve the objective of a whole-of-society response, mechanisms to involve civil society organizations in the work of the council will need to be developed.

We strongly support the development of a cohesive multidisciplinary and professionalized health emergency workforce. Such an emergency workforce must be distributed in all regions of the world and rapidly deployable. It is crucial that principles contained in the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel be applied to this public health workforce.

We also wish to frame emergency response as a key component of health system strengthening and UHC. We underline the critical contribution of the health workforce as a whole to ensuring the continuity of essential health services, including the provision of palliative care during pandemics. We also emphasise the need for stronger health data governance, through a global framework, to improve patient management and safeguard rights.

