



World Federation of Public Health Associations
Fédération Mondiale des Associations de Santé Publique
Federación Mundial de las Asociaciones de Salud Pública
Всемирная Федерация Ассоциаций Общественного Здравоохранения
世界公共卫生联盟
الاتحاد العالمي لجمعيات الصحة العامة

World Health Assembly, Geneva, 22-27 May 2017

13.1 Human Resources for Health and Implementation of the Outcomes of the United Nations' High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth

World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) speaking note:

Chairperson, Excellences, and Distinguished Colleagues,

As the Commission on Health Employment is considered, the WFPHA in collaboration with the International Pharmacy Students Federation calls on the WHO and delegates to the WHA to engage the next generation in planning for health employment.

The WFPHA is an international NGO composed of multidisciplinary public health associations. In this year, 2017, it is celebrating its 50th anniversary of advancing the collective voice of public health. As it looks backwards on the progress in the past 50 years it also looks forward.

Last year, the WFPHA took a big step forward in action on the engagement of young professionals. The Governing Council passed a resolution to create a dedicated position on its governing council for a young professional to hold.

Engagement of young professionals in planning brings with it numerous benefits. It is not merely a manner of training individuals from the next generation, but genuine engagement of young professionals in public health planning also adds energy and creativity that only those newer to the field can bring.

Certain WHA member states include a youth delegate among their official delegation to the World Health Assembly. For those member states that do not yet have youth delegates, the WFPHA encourages this.

For the WHO, engagement of young professionals must be considered across all aspects of health employment planning. Regard to equitable planning should also include gender, racial, geographic and income-level perspectives in the discourse. Engaging those who will be leading health systems of the future is the only way for planning to have a lasting impact. Beyond this, it is hoped that new ideas will be generated that may otherwise be overlooked.

Dear Director-General and delegates, we call upon you to engage young professionals in the future of planning for health employment.

Thank you!