Press release

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The WFPHA, founded in 1967, is the unique international non-governmental body representing the interests of the global public health community through national and regional public health associations and associated organizations.

“We are in the midst of one of the most devastating global public health emergencies in recent history. Few countries are sufficiently prepared to deal with a virus of this virulence and with no known cure. The situation is especially serious for low- and middle-income countries. While many may have pandemic preparedness plans, their capacity to apply them is limited” stated Professor Laetitia Rispel, WFPHA’s President. “Our health care systems are being pushed to their limit. And, as we have seen, the consequences of COVID-19 go well beyond the health care system. We were unprepared for the shocks to our economic, commercial, academic and social systems, the consequences of which will affect especially hard our world’s most vulnerable and marginalized people.”

The InterAction Council’s framework aligns well with the WFPHA’s guiding principles of solidarity, social justice, human rights, equity, evidenced-informed policy and practice, and the need to address the underlying socio-economic, commercial, human rights-related and political determinants of health. The WFPHA’s Global Charter for the Public’s Health aligns well with and supports the Framework’s elements. Besides calling for strengthening the primary elements of public health (disease and injury prevention, health promotion and health protection) and health system operations and measures, the Framework recommends an all-of-society approach across all sectors for future pandemic and emergency responses.

“Strong leadership and governance at both the national and international levels informed by evidence-based facts are critical”, according to Professor Bettina Borisch, the Federation’s Executive Director. “We commend the InterAction Council for developing and sharing this framework. It’s a means to begin the conversation about how different sectors, including the world’s community of public health associations, can contribute to charting the path for future pandemic and emergency planning and response. Now is the time to come together to begin planning a more robust, comprehensive response to future public health emergencies to ensure that all countries can respond effectively and equitably in a timely fashion.”

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