World Health Assembly, Geneva, 23-28 May 2016

Provisional agenda point 16.1 Health workforce and services

**Statement on the “A Global Charter for the Public’s Health: a road map for collaborative global actions”**

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

Chairperson, Excellences, and Distinguished Colleagues,

The WFPHA is an international, nongovernmental organization composed of multidisciplinary national public health associations.

Political leaders increasingly perceive health as being crucial to achieving growth, development, equity and stability throughout the world. This understanding and increasing globalization means it is very timely to review the role of (global) public health in this changing societal and political environment.

Resilient public health systems are needed locally to globally and within each country. However, the current reality consists of fragmented, variable and incomplete public health services and functions, with little common understanding of what a good public health service looks like.

In this context, WFPHA has developed the *A Global Charter for the Public’s Health* (GCPH) as the main output of its collaboration plan with the World Health Organization (WHO) to adapt today’s public health to its global context in the light of and in conjunction with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Declaration of Alma-Ata on Primary Health Care in 1978 and The Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion in 1986 had a major influence on improving health throughout the world. The intention of the Charter is to take the next step in providing a succinct and practical implementation guideline to public health associations to work with other Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), training and research institutions, civil society and governments to plan and implement strategies for better health outcomes across the globe.

This is the beginning of a process embracing the conceptualization of global public health and the development of strategic capacities for all professionals that will be part of a new health era, more dedicated to preventive solutions.

Dear Madame Director-General, we call upon you to assist us in this process up to the adoption of a WHO action plan on public health functions, based on the *A Global Charter for the Public’s Health*.

Thank you!

_The A Global Charter for the Public’s Health is available at_ [www.wfpha.org](http://www.wfpha.org)