



1912 · 2012
100 YEARS OF
ADVANCING
PHARMACY
WORLDWIDE



World Confederation
for Physical Therapy



World Health Profession Alliance WHPA

66th World Health Assembly Intervention

Agenda Item 14.3. Social Determinants of Health

Honorable Members of the World Health Assembly,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Medical Association, the International Council of Nurses, the International Pharmaceutical Federation, the World Confederation for Physical Therapy and the World Dental Federation, which together form the World Health Professions Alliance – WHPA. The Alliance represents the collective views of more than 25 million health professionals, working together to achieve the highest possible standards of care, ethics, education and health-related human rights for all people.

Our organisations welcome the report on social determinants of health reflecting the importance of a “health-in-all-policies” approach and would like to make the following remarks:

1. We insist on the need for clear **coherent actions on the social determinants of health and on the prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**. Health professionals play a key role in reducing the global NCD burden through actions in health promotion, disease prevention or treatment and rehabilitation. The WHPA is eager that actions to address both social determinants and NCDs are moving forward in a complementary way and that the actions addressing one build on those of the other.
2. Furthermore, we believe that social determinants of health should be central in the discussion and definition of **Millennium Development Goals after 2015**. A coherent overall framework that addresses the social, economic and

environmental determinants of health is essential for just and sustainable development worldwide. With this perspective, health in the post-2015 agenda should be addressed as positive and inclusive, including beneficial outcomes and not only freedom from disease.

3. Finally, we regret that the report does not give more attention to **health professionals as key contributors** in addressing health discrepancies. As the frontline of health services delivery, health professionals are well positioned to embrace a model that makes a positive impact on the well-being of the population. Consideration should also urgently be given to education and training, so that social determinants of health forms an integrated part of health professionals' curriculum. WHPA members will encourage the inclusion of SDH in curricula guidelines.

I thank you for your attention.

World Health Professions Alliance WHPA
c/o World Medical Association
13, Chemin du Levant
01210 Ferney-Voltaire
France

Phone: 0033 (0) 450 40 7575
Fax: 0033 (0) 450 40 5937
Email: whpa@wma.net
www.whpa.org