



World Health Professions Alliance WHPA

Executive Board 134th Session

Agenda Item 8.2: Multisectorial action for a life course approach to healthy ageing

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 26 million health professionals worldwide.

Our organizations welcome the Secretariat's report on healthy ageing which identifies very clearly the global challenges we are facing. We appreciate WHO's efforts to support the development of a multisectorial coordinated strategy for healthy ageing focusing on a life course approach. As healthcare professionals we concur with this approach.

We would like to raise several points which could be further developed:

1. Strengthen the emphasis on prevention at all ages. For instance, good oral hygiene has a significant impact on the continued ability to chew and therefore constitutes a key factor for a healthy ageing and for preserving the quality of life. We would suggest a specific recommendation on the importance of prevention.
2. Make more explicit references to interprofessional collaborative practice, interprofessional education as emphasized in the WHPA statement issued last year, and provide a reflection on the recommendations presented in the 2013 WHO Education guidelines on *Transforming and scaling up health professionals' education and training*, and the discussions during the *Third Global Forum on Human Resources for Health*.
3. Reinforce the importance of ensuring that the health workforce and others providing care are fit, healthy and supported, as they will continue to be intrinsic to solutions.
4. Finally, acknowledging the importance of data gathering and the leading role that WHO can play, we encourage WHO to focus not only on mortality, but also on morbidity and quality of life which are essential considerations when monitoring the health of older adults.

We appreciate WHO's willingness to engage and work with all stakeholders and look forward to the continued involvement of health professions in advocacy and policy discussions directed toward the life course approach to health ageing and the control and prevention of NCDs.

Thank you for your attention.

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