

**Statement to the 65th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe
on session ‘Promoting intersectoral and interagency action for health and well-being in the WHO
European Region, with special focus on social determinants and health, and health literacy: links
and coherence between health, education and social policy and health in sustainable development
and foreign policy’**

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the opportunity to address the distinguished members of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe on behalf of Medicus Mundi International, the European Public Health Alliance and the European civil society coalition “Health workers for all and all for health workers”.

We welcome the paper ‘Health is a political choice – promoting intersectoral action for health and well-being in the WHO European Region’ – especially the part of ‘recognizing global dimensions’.

Let me focus on a core element that we think should be explicitly addressed when adopting the decision to promote intersectoral work on health and well-being: the international moral responsibility and ethical imperative that everybody should have access to skilled health workers providing essential health services.

The ‘solution’ to the global HRH crisis – including brain drain risks – relies to a great deal on promoting and achieving better policy coherence between health and migration/mobility, development, employment, economic and trade policies that – underwritten by the aim of improving population health – need to be properly aligned in order to plan, train, recruit and retain adequate numbers of health professionals inside and outside Europe.

The WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel is the main international tool available to achieve this, but as a voluntary instrument it requires reinforcement at national and regional levels to really make a long-term impact. Moreover, it relies on effective, orchestrated collaboration between actors at different levels and representing diverse political, civil society and business interests.

Thank you.

(202 words)

***The statement will be delivered by: Linda Mans
Contact for enquiries: linda.mans@wemos.nl***