

# statement regarding WHA 69 agenda item 16.1: Health workforce and services

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on behalf of:*

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International Federation of Hospital Engineering (IFHE)  
Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi)  
International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists (ISRRT)  
Humatem  
International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IFBLS)  
World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPaLM)*

## STATEMENT:

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Dear Chairperson, Director General, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Previous health crises have demonstrated that multidisciplinary teamwork is key to accomplish good results; WHO's drive towards evidence based approaches and transparency via quantifiable results require effective, efficient and reliable reporting. These examples demonstrate that the "health workforce" consists of more than physicians, nurses and midwives. Next to several other paramedical professions, we highlight the role of technologists in health care.

Among other technologies, medical devices play essential roles for all diseases and behind these we find biomedical and clinical engineers, physicists, biomedical laboratory and pathology scientists and technicians.

Safe, effective and efficient people-centered care requires appropriate Medical Information and Communication Technology applications such as electronic medical records. Data generation and processing has become a "must" to provide the P4 paradigm: preventive, predictive, personalised and participatory care.

Engineering facilities like hygienic rooms, consumable water, clean air, safe energy, general safety are indispensable; here again we need specialized, well trained technical personnel at all levels: from engineer to technician.

To perform Healthcare Technology Assessment, enabling selection of health technologies and interventions for Universal Health Coverage (UHC), medico-technical specialists are indispensable team members.

Therefore we plead that WHO acknowledges the merit and the implication of following biomedical professionals: biomedical engineers, clinical and hospital engineers, engineering managers, safety engineers, medical/radiation physicists, health technology assessors, biomedical laboratory scientists and medical technicians as being part of the "Health workforce". This is crucial to achieve the goals of context tailored and sustainable systems.

Without them, the currently considered Health workforce with purely medical skills would miss essential competences.

We also strongly recommend that WHO itself expand its own global staff for medical devices and other non-drug technologies, by establishing robust professional teams in Headquarters and Regions to reflect the growing importance of appropriate (context tailored) medical devices and the role of aforementioned personnel in integrated solutions.

Thank you for your kind attention.