

INTRAHEALTH INTERNATIONAL'S STATEMENT AT THE 75TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

May 26, 2022

Health workers, 70% of whom are women, have shown great dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic—and many have lost their lives to COVID-19 or as a result of unacceptable violence and wartime attacks.

We must protect and listen to health workers and respect their rights. As nurse Rafiat Akinokun [stated](#) at the recent Global COVID-19 Summit: "Nurses have received applause from various international bodies, but we cannot vaccinate the world on applause. We need to be listened to, we need to be paid, and we need to be included in policy discussions."

Will this Assembly be a turning point for health workers, or will our health systems be just as weak when the next pandemic strikes?

The Director-General's report for the [Global Strategy for Human Resources](#) shows that in key regions the workforce shortage has not improved since 2013.

We at IntraHealth International urge Member States to provide full backing to Working for Health 2022-2030 to enable support for country strategic plans. The [previous action plan](#) received only 10% of the funds required, which is unacceptable.

We urge Member States in the G7 to contribute \$2-3 billion annually to human resource strengthening, as [proposed](#) by the Think7 research group. Any new health worker initiative should [clearly define](#) what new investments and partnerships it will include.

Member States must invest in human resource information systems to know how many health workers their countries have, where they are located, and the details of their skills and job performance. We also call for equity and greater leadership opportunities for women health workers.

Lastly, [pandemic preparedness will fail](#) if it does not strengthen broad categories of health workers as well as workforce planning. [We urge Member States](#) to ensure that the pandemic preparedness financing facility now being planned at the World Bank uses an inclusive definition of public health workers and that it supports effective deployment of all categories of health workers who contribute to public health.

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