

# Open Letter from the Third Global Forum on HRH

On the occasion of the Third Global Forum on Human Resources for Health (HRH), held in Recife, Brazil, November 10-13, hosted by the Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA), the Government of Brazil, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the partners of GHWA, we commend and support the following:

- The Recife Political Declaration on Human Resources for Health: Renewed Commitments Toward Universal Health Coverage
- The GHWA members' commitments and constituencies (country, implementers, and civil society)
- The Health Workers Count Pledge supported by the Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative, the Frontline Health Workers Coalition, and other civil-society partners
- "Investing in Human Resources for Health: The Need for Paradigm Shift for the Global Health Community over the Next Decade," published in the *WHO Bulletin* special edition on HRH
- A Universal Truth: No Health without a Workforce, launched on November 11, 2013, at Recife

We applaud the vision of the constituencies (WHO and WHO member states, donors, civil society, advocacy groups, and implementers) for their consistent focus on universal health coverage accountability frameworks and additional investments, as well as their recognition of continuing challenges to be addressed. These documents build on the Kampala Declaration Agenda for Global Action, the Outcome Statement of the Second Global Forum, and the WHO Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel.

Our collective advocacy has resulted in HRH being assigned a central place in the global development agenda: it is the key to scaling up health systems to achieve universal health coverage, social protection, and shared prosperity. This calls for reinforced collaboration between the multilateral agencies responsible for alignment of access to health, social care, and economic opportunity. We have a basis to move forward, yet resource constraints and the challenges of global leadership for HRH threaten to limit what can be accomplished.

GHWA has the mandate to convene, promote, and advocate that "all people, everywhere have access to a skilled and motivated health worker within a robust health system." This is critical to fulfilling the ambitions of the Millennium Development Goals and to creating a visionary post-2015 agenda for health through full attainment of universal health coverage. We request that the GHWA board work with partners to mobilize the resources needed to revitalize the GHWA secretariat and to identify synergies with other movements with potential to reposition GHWA toward universal health coverage and the post-2015 agenda. We call on the chair, board, and members of GHWA to recommit and create a global agenda that serves as a framework for the implementation of the declarations and commitments of the member states of the World Health Organization, notably to:

- Revisit and re-energize the global HRH governance
- Encourage an efficient, effective division of labour based on comparative strengths
- Encourage long-term, sustainable funding streams for health workforce solutions throughout the health workforce system
- Ensure monitoring and accountability in the pursuit of commitments

- Foster HRH implementation and the operational research agenda and gather, interpret, and disseminate global health workforce evidence
- Advocate for HRH in all related aspects of the global development agenda
- Convene and communicate with the global HRH community

As members of GHWA and implementing agencies, we also commit to support these actions through our national, regional, and global activities, and to convene again in 2014 to measure progress on all fronts.

Abt Associates

Asia-Pacific Action Alliance on Human Resources for Health (AAAHA)

African Center for Global Health and Social Transformation

African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF)

Centre for African Family Studies (CAFS)

Centre for Health Sciences Training Research and Development (CHESTRAD) International

Global Health South

HealthGAP

Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative (HWAI)

IMA World Health

Institute for Collaborative Development

Instituto de Cooperación Social Integrare (ICS Integrare)

International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)

International Confederation of Midwives (ICM)

IntraHealth International, Inc.

Management Sciences for Health (MSH)

Partners in Population and Development (PPD)

Public Services International

Save the Children

The Benjamin William Mkapa HIV/AIDS Foundation

The Platform on HRH

Training Resources Group, Inc. (TRG)

***Further inquiries to sign on to this letter may be sent to [IntraHealth International at \[hrhforum2013@intrahealth.org\]\(mailto:hrhforum2013@intrahealth.org\)](mailto:hrhforum2013@intrahealth.org) with your organization logo in web and print format before December 14, 2013.***