

WHA71: STRENGTHENING INTEGRATED, PEOPLE-CENTRED HEALTH SERVICES

RESOLUTION WHA69.24, (2016)

ITEM J.

IntraHealth commends WHO for its progress in supporting Member States to implement Resolution 69.24 including important position papers on integration, health innovation, and continuity of care. Strengthening integrated, people-centered health services is critical for progress on all health issues and the SDGs. Progress can continue only if the patient, the health worker delivering services, and the community in which they live are at the center of efforts to strengthen health systems and achieve universal health coverage.

We applaud WHO for its efforts to encourage Member States and civil society to participate in the robust IntegratedCare4People platform designed to further operationalize the integrated, people-centered health services framework.

People deserve basic primary health care that takes into consideration their concerns, wants, and needs. Communities with the least access to the essential health services provided by frontline health workers are by-in-large the same communities with the greatest burden of diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, maternal and child mortality, and—as we tragically witnessed during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa—the greatest vulnerability to disease outbreaks.

Coordination among Member States is needed to ensure a sustained and well-distributed health workforce that is supported, protected, and able to respond to community needs—particularly of those most in need. We urge Member States to mandate WHO to create a working group on a Framework Convention on Global Health, a proposed global treaty aimed at health equity and based on health as a human right. This right is enshrined in the 70-year-old Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Universal health coverage, global health progress, and global health security cannot be achieved without a people-centered approach to ensuring all communities have access to essential health services—and a voice in how those services are offered.