

WHA71: SUSTAINABLE HEALTH FINANCING STRUCTURES AND UNIVERSAL COVERAGE

RESOLUTION WHA64.9 (2011)

ITEM L.

IntraHealth, speaking for the 42 members of the Frontline Health Workers Coalition, supports the need to implement WHA Resolution 64.9 to enable sustainable health financing structures and universal health coverage and calls for particularly urgent attention to the need to address gaps in access to essential health services provided by frontline health workers.

Communities with least access to the essential health services provided by frontline health workers are by-in-large the same communities with the greatest disease burden, maternal and child mortality, and vulnerability to new health threats. SDG3 and global health compacts agreed to by Member States simply cannot be achieved without far greater focus on assisting countries to address the most acute gaps in access to these health workers.

Thankfully, a framework for action was unanimously approved by this body last year. The 5-year Working for Health Action Plan sets out a framework for achieving the 2020 and 2030 milestones in the first ever Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health, Workforce 2030.

The WHO, OECD, and International Labour Organization are working together on implementing this action plan, but it cannot be successful without sustainable financing. A UNDP trust fund has been established to help countries implement the action plan, but few commitments have been made to date.

We urge Member States to make financial commitments to this fund and focus on sustainable financing plans to ensure access to the crucial health services provided by frontline health workers. The trust fund must be a complement to greater domestic resource mobilization for frontline health workers and to evidence-based and scalable financing mechanisms, such as strategic purchasing, to ensure that greater investments are linked to improved health systems and health workforce performance.