

WHA71: MHEALTH

ITEM 12.4

We commend WHO for recognizing the significant role played by digital health technologies in strengthening health systems and helping countries achieve universal health coverage, the SDGs, and other health objectives, as stated in their new mHealth report.

Health Data Matters: To realize gains through digital health technologies, and new advances in data analysis and interpretation, we suggest that Member States focus on two approaches for applying digital solutions in health systems and services.

The first focus is on interoperability so different digital health systems can exchange standards-based data, and integrate with existing national eHealth strategies and architectures. The effective and timely sharing of health data can define the number and type of health workers required to increase access to quality, cost-effective health services, particularly for hard-to-reach populations.

IntraHealth brings its expertise in interoperability across systems to help countries populate platforms, such as national health workforce accounts, to estimate costs and impact nationally, and compare inputs and outcomes across countries, improving WHO and Member States' understanding of health systems.

The second focus is on building the data literacy and analytical capacity of frontline health workers and their constituent populations, to foster engagement and accountability at the local level, thereby empowering every individual.

Enabling Universal Health Coverage: For more than a decade, WHO and its Member States have recognized the value that digital health technologies bring to health systems and services. Let us work together to ensure these efforts are interoperable and directly benefit frontline health workers, building the basis for universal health coverage and the SDGs.