

Agenda Item: 8.1 Human resources for health and implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations' High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth

Statement

MMI would like to take this opportunity to address agenda item 8.1. Our statement is supported by PHM.

We appreciate the Commission's recommendations, immediate actions and five year implementation plan.

The report importantly advances the links between health employment and health systems but its proposals promote the perspective of an investment model rather than a social model where health and access to health care is viewed as a fundamental human right. There is strong evidence that the access to health care can be greatly enhanced by deployment of large numbers of Community Health Workers with appropriate integration with the rest of the health systems. Such a policy would also provide employment opportunities for poor women and stimulate economic growth.

Expanding the fiscal space for countries to invest in health workforce requires tax reforms to capture revenues from taxes that are systematically avoided and evaded. We urge Member States to establish governance mechanisms and sustained funding through bilateral agreements which integrate cost sharing, mechanisms for reimbursement of source countries and through progressive taxation measures.

This calls for review of the WHO Global Code of Practice on International Recruitment of Health Personnel and strengthening of public health systems in source countries. Health worker migration undermines the development of public health systems especially in developing countries while destination countries continue to benefit significantly. We urge Member States to make use of the opportunity provided within the WHO code, article 9.5 to commence discussion on compensation and fiscal policies.

We request the WHO and Member States invest in strong mechanisms to promote awareness, accountability, transparency, and sustainable financing to take forward the commitments made in the Five-Year Implementation Plan for Human Resources for Health at national, regional and global levels