



**GA9.1 Resolution on Access and Healthcare and employment
General Assembly Meeting – Durban – Wednesday, 2 November 2016**

The IHF members gathered for the 2016 General assembly in Durban, Republic of South Africa have adopted the following resolution:

The IHF members want to alert the international community on the need to change gear in addressing the shortage of healthcare professionals around the world and on key role of healthcare providers as employers.

A High level commission on health employment and economic growth was set up by UN to find innovative ways to address health labor shortages and ensure a good match between the skills of health workers and job requirements, so as to foster efficiency of the health sector and its contribution to inclusive growth. This commission has done extensive consultation through two phases including on line open consultation. This consultation is supporting preparing a document to be discussed on the occasion of the September 2016 UN General Assembly meeting.

During this process IHF was invited to participate to two consultative meetings and it has expressed that the approach adopted by this commission has not given enough consideration to the role of employers. The hospital sector whether it is public but autonomous or private (not profit or investor own) is the largest healthcare employer and as such it plays a major role in the labor market dynamic. In many countries, the hospital sector is a key player for initial training and the continuous education of health professions. This role is quite underestimated while it is critical in scaling up the volume of trained and fit for employment health professionals.

The IHF community gathered in Durban for the World Hospital Congress is recognizing the efforts made by the UN and affiliated agencies to keep the health professional shortage as a critical global issue having consequences in the whole economy beyond its specific consequences on healthcare service provision to the population

The IHF community representing the major employers of healthcare professionals is also calling upon all parties involved in the high level commission on health employment and economic growth to better consider the health care service providers as drivers to solutions.

The IHF community is also expecting that local and national governments provide support in revising and adapting the employment rules when it is demonstrated that such rules are limiting both recruitment and training of health professionals.

The IHF community will be looking closely the recommendations made by the commission and will be providing its own contribution as a major employer of health professionals.

The IHF community will be monitoring progresses made towards resolution of Health professional shortage and the IHF secretariat will inform the IHF Governing Council on latest developments so that it can decide on most appropriate actions in support to resolution of the shortage of health professionals.