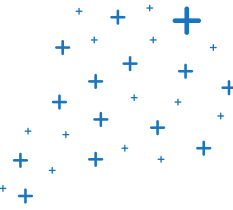


High-Level Commission on
Health Employment
and Economic Growth



WORKING FOR HEALTH AND GROWTH

Investing in the health workforce



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Acronyms and abbreviations

GDP	gross domestic product
ICT	information and communications technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHO	World Health Organization


FOREWORD

We are pleased to express our commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the contribution of this High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth.

There is a unique opportunity that we collectively need to seize; despite the economic downturn, the demands on the global health labour market keep on increasing. As the world's population grows, people need better access to safe, quality health care, as well as long-term employment. These aspirations to a longer life in better health are reinforced by rising living standards, longer lifespans and new technologies. The social and health sectors will have to play a greater role in our economies, and we will need collectively to increase health employment.

With the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, we have seen how inaction and chronic underinvestment can compromise human health, and also lead to serious economic and social setbacks. Investing in health workers is one part of the broader objective of strengthening health systems and social protection and essentially constitutes the first line of defence against international health crises. Complementing monitoring and crisis response mechanisms, health workers are the cornerstone of a resilient health system. We need these “Everyday Heroes” to meet these needs and expectations.

This is precisely what this report is about and why it is so very timely. By encouraging the creation of new jobs in the health sector globally, we strongly believe there is a unique opportunity both to respond to the growing global demand for health workers and to address the projected shortages. This is the only way to achieve universal health coverage. Beyond the benefits for



public health, the social and health sectors will generate decent, inclusive and sustainable jobs, with substantial gains in social protection, human security, equity and human rights, as well as for women and youth's economic empowerment. It is an important aspect of social cohesion in our countries and we care deeply about it.

As co-chairs of this Commission, we commit to convincing our fellow Heads of State of the pressing need for strong mobilization in favour of enhancing the health workforce as well as health employment in order to contribute to the 2030 Agenda, universal health coverage and inclusive economic growth.

We invite all stakeholders to join us in implementing our ten recommendations and to integrate these in their national, regional and international plans. We need to align our efforts with other related plans if we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

We thank each and every Commissioner for their outstanding contribution to this work.

Finally we also thank you, our reader. You are now part of a global movement, and we are looking forward to our future collaboration.



François Hollande
President of France



Jacob Zuma
President of South Africa

FOREWORD

This Commission proposes ambitious solutions to ensure that the world has the right number of jobs for health workers with the right skills and in the right places to deliver universal health coverage.

These solutions are not only essential to improving health, they provide a unique opportunity to amplify gains across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—in poverty reduction, quality education, decent work, inclusive economic growth and gender equality. Achieving universal health coverage requires more workers in decent jobs, which can create many new opportunities especially for women and youth.

We need to change the way we invest in and achieve equity and prosperity for all. Business as usual is untenable. To address deepening mismatches and inequities in the health workforce, the solutions proposed by this Commission carry the potential for once-in-a-generation investments in the health sector as a key sector for our economies, our societies and the international community.

No single agency and no single sector can implement the changes required to achieve a fit-for-purpose health workforce in the context of persistently high unemployment and under-employment in many countries, and amid the major demographic, technological and socioeconomic changes occurring across all countries. Political will, leadership, intersectoral action and international partnerships will be critical to success. We acknowledge the United Nations Secretary-General's leadership in establishing this Commission. In doing so, the United Nations has set the stage

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