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THIRD GLOBAL FORUM ON HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH

Report on Preparations (by Brazil)

Introduction

1. Human resources for health (HRH) challenges are in many countries the single largest impediment to scaling up access to health services and to achieve the health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and universal health coverage. The Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA) was established in 2006 to spearhead the global response to the HRH crisis documented in the World Health Report 2006, *Working Together for Health*. In support of its mandate, one of the key responsibilities of the Alliance is to convene a Global Forum on Human Resources for Health on a regular basis. At the invitation of the Government of Brazil, the Alliance Board decided to realize the Third Global Forum on HRH (3GF) in Recife, Brazil on 10-13 November, 2013. The Government of Brazil, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) are the conference patrons, while the Alliance acts as its convener.

Background

2. Since 2008, the GHWA has convened two Global Forums on Human Resources for Health, bringing together a host of HRH stakeholders to find solutions to the HRH crisis. The First Global Forum, held in Kampala, Uganda (2008), resulted in the development of a global HRH roadmap: *The Kampala Declaration and the Agenda for Global Action*. At the Second Global Forum in Bangkok, Thailand (2011), countries and stakeholders reconvened to review progress and renew their commitments towards increased investment, sustained leadership and the adoption of effective HRH policies. Now, in 2013, the Third Global Forum on Human Resources for Health, slated to take place in the Region of the Americas, seeks to advance the HRH agenda further and make progress towards Universal Health Coverage and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

3. The Region of the Americas is particularly well placed to make a significant contribution to the Third Global Forum on HRH. During the Pan American Sanitary Conference in 2007, the countries of the Region adopted twenty (20) Regional Goals in matters of Human Resources for Health 2007-2015, structured around the five HRH challenges identified in the 2005 Toronto Call to Action for a Decade of Human Resources for Health. In order to document the progress achieved, many countries of the Region are currently carrying out a second assessment of the Regional Goals and documenting innovative HRH strategies and programs implemented to improve quality and effective health coverage.

4. The Third Global Forum will focus on HRH as a foundation for Universal Health Coverage and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The Government of Brazil, with its strong leadership and support of human resources for health both within the Region of the Americas and globally, is an obvious player to host and serve on the organizing committees of this Forum. PAHO has also been integrally involved in the coordination, as a member of the two governing structures for strategic planning and coordination—the Forum Working Group and the Forum Organizing Committee.

Objectives

5. The objectives of this Third Global Forum on Human Resources for Health are as follow:

- (a) To elicit new commitments on human resources for health (HRH) to accelerate progress towards universal health coverage and attainment of the health MDGs.
- (b) To establish accountability mechanisms to monitor and report on the HRH Commitments.
- (c) To identify key HRH issues for the post-2015 development agenda.

Thematic Structure

6. The theme of the [Third Global Forum](#) is “Human Resources for Health: foundation for Universal Health Coverage and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.” Within this overall theme, five sub-themes have been identified, each with related track sessions. The program will consist of high-level plenary sessions followed by technical discussions and debates on the following sub-themes:

- Leadership, partnership and accountability.
- Financial requirements for robust HRH policies towards universal health coverage.
- Supportive legal and regulatory landscape for HRH.

- Empowering health workers: a key condition towards universal health coverage.
- Innovation and research: new approaches in HRH for universal health coverage.

Participants

7. Participation is by invitation and will include Heads of State; policy makers and professionals from several ministries, including health, education and finance; civil society; multilateral and bilateral agencies; donor organizations; the private sector; academia; and other health care workers. Of the 1500-2000 participants expected, approximately 500 will be from Brazil with anticipated regional diversity from Africa (40%), the Americas (20%) and other regions of the world (40%).

Outcome Statement

8. The outcome statement will reflect salient messages emerging from the discussions, including: (a) the link between the HRH agenda and the remaining years of the MDGs framework, (b) the universal health coverage objective, (c) the social determinants of health, (d) the Rio+20 process, and (e) the post-2015 development framework. The new HRH commitments elicited in the lead-up to the event will formally be presented at the Forum and will support the outcome document.

Action by the Executive Committee

9. The Executive Committee is requested to take note of this report.

References

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