

144th session of the WHO Executive Board (24 January - 1 February 2019)

Agenda Item:

6.3 Human resources for health

Statement:

Public Services International welcomes the WHO Director-General's Report EB144/25 on the third round of national reporting on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel.

Indeed, the WHO Code becomes even more relevant, with the UN General Assembly adoption last year of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). As concerning health worker migration and mobility, the WHO Code provides the tool to realise the Objectives of the GCM, particularly as relating to data (Objective 1), pathways for regular migration (Objective 5), fair and ethical recruitment for decent work (Objective 6), skills development and partnerships (Objective 18) and international cooperation (Objective 23). Therefore, it is imperative that efforts towards implementation and monitoring of the WHO Code be reinforced and necessary resources allocated.

Furthermore, in the framework of the GCM and the WHO Code, PSI values its participation in the launching in October last year of the International Platform on Health Worker Mobility (IPHWHM). The Platform is a good example of dialogue and cooperation among WHO Member States, international agencies and stakeholders, such as employers, professional associations and trade unions, in addressing the challenges and opportunities of health worker migration and mobility.

As a global federation representing 14 million workers in the health and social care sectors, PSI stands ready to cooperate with the WHO Secretariat, Member States and other stakeholders in promoting universal health coverage, defending health workers' rights, and advocating for equity and sustainability of the human resources for health in both origin and destination countries of migrant health workers.