# Panel 6: Working for Health: deepening cooperation with the WHO and ILO

**Background**

The United Nation’s Secretary General’s High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth was constituted in March 2016, as a demonstration of commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which recognised the centrality of the health workforce to this aim, being the backbone of the healthcare delivery system.

It was a watershed in more ways than one. The inter-agency cooperation of the World Health Organization, International Labour Organization and the OECD was a pioneering experience. The recommendations and report of the Commission were also far reaching in propounding steps to be taken to avoid the projected shortfall of 18 million health workers by 2030, which put social dialogue at the centre of these, towards realising the WHO Global Strategy for Human Resources for Health 2030.

The ILO Tripartite Meeting on Improving Employment and Working Conditions in the Health Services held n 24-28 April 2017 reinforced the spirit of the *Working for Health* initiative that emerged from the recommendations of the High-Level Commission, and as it was subsequently passed as a resolution of the World Health Organisation 70.

The PSI General Secretary, Rosa Pavanelli served as member of the High-Level Commission and was equally leader of the Workers group to the Tripartite Meeting. PSI equally represents the trade union movement through the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD on issues bearing on health at the OECD.

We are committed to consolidating on the singular representational role of PSI within the structures of these three international organisations for the realisation of the *Working for Health* Five-Year Action Plan for Health Employment and Inclusive Economic Growth. Towards this, PSI has applied for Official Relations status with the WHO within its framework for engagement with non-state actors (FENSA) and intend to work more closely with the ILO as well, based on the recommendations of the Tripartite Meeting.

This panel will provide a platform for the HSSTF to interact with officials of the WHO and ILO whom we work with in these regards with the aim of enriching our unfolding collaboration with both bodies within the context of the *Working for Health* Five-Year Action Plan.

**Panellists**:

Dr Tana WULIJI, WHO (to put the WHO and PSI collaboration in perspective)

Christiane WISKOW, ILO (to present the conclusions of ILO Tripartite meeting on Improving Employment and Working Conditions in the Health Services, with perspectives on: *from recommendations to action*)

**For background information:**

<http://www.who.int/hrh/com-heeg/action-plan-annexes/en/>

<http://www.world-psi.org/en/final-report-expert-group-high-level-commission-health-employment-and-economic-growth>

<http://www.ilo.org/sector/activities/sectoral-meetings/WCMS_508523/lang--en/index.htm>

<http://www.world-psi.org/en/rosa-pavanelli-addresses-opening-session-ilo-tripartite-meeting-improving-employment-and-working>

<http://www.world-psi.org/en/tripartite-step-towards-improving-employment-and-working-conditions-health-services>

<https://publicspace.who.int/sites/GEM/official_relations_details.aspx?id=69>