



**Frontline Health Workers Coalition Statement at Ministerial Meeting on Action Plan for High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth**

**Statement to be Delivered by Vince Blaser, Director, Frontline Health Workers Coalition, Washington DC, USA**

The Frontline Health Workers Coalition – an alliance of United States-based public and private organizations working together to urge greater and more strategic US investment in frontline health workers in developing countries as a cost-effective way to save lives and foster a healthier, safer, and more prosperous world – applauds the aim of the draft five-year action plan for driving the coordinated investments needed to implement the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth.

Our Coalition, with a secretariat housed at IntraHealth International in Washington, DC, represents US-based organizations that work in all regions of the world. We see our chief role in relation to the Commission’s action plan as advocating for the agenda within the context of US foreign assistance programs for health and development, engaging and informing and simultaneously holding leaders in the US and at multilateral institutions accountable for the pledges made toward the recommendations and immediate actions.

In addition, we pledge to continue to work with advocates around the world through mechanisms such as the new Global Health Workforce Network to push for greater financial, technical, and reporting, and research commitment from UN member states, the private sector, civil society, academia, and other stakeholders worldwide. Finally, we will continue to disseminate and discuss the Commission’s report and recommendations with governments of countries in which our member organizations work throughout the world.

Among the immediate actions proposed by the Commission, the Coalition pledges to focus on the importance of addressing following recommended action, quoting from the Commission’s report, page 57:

“The Commission urges the international community to support the massive scaling up of professional, technical, and vocational education and training that is required in low-income countries. We recommend that the international community prioritize the 15–20 countries where universal health coverage and our recommendations are least likely to be attained.”

Make no mistake, fulfilment of this recommendation will be a difficult task, as investment in health and workforce development in many of the countries with least access has been severely lagging from donors, as well as from domestic resources. We urge member states and other key stakeholders to first distinctly identify these 15 to 20 countries, work with the governments of these countries to determine the data that needs to be collected, create concrete targets for progress, and implement a financing framework to realistically achieve this recommendation.

The Frontline Health Workers Coalition pledges to work with other civil society leaders on advocating for resource mobilization by the United States, other donors, and domestic resources within these 15 to 20 countries to achieve this objective. We also plan to continue to work with WHO, ILO and OECD on communicating progress against the Commission's work, as well as the WHO Workforce 2030 strategy. We will also propose and advocate for actions via the World Health Assembly, UN General Assembly, and other vehicles to advocate that the recommendations are addressed. In addition, we will encourage adherence in our members' work toward the Commission's recommendations and Workforce 2030, as well as regular reporting by members as to whether the recommendations are being met where they are working.

The Frontline Health Workers Coalition will continue to bridge the divide between theory and practice by utilizing available evidence from our members' work to inform robust advocacy for strengthening the global health workforce on the frontlines of care.