Meeting:
148th session of the Executive Board
Pillar 1: One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage
Global action on patient safety
Statement
Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) representing 550,000 family doctors in 150 countries. WONCA welcomes the Global action on patient safety and notes its global importance. Family doctors are fundamental members of primary care in all health systems and are firmly committed to ensuring quality and safety in health care. Patient safety as a basic dimension of quality leads us to work with prudence in our support of the community. Family physicians have been serving the community using a process of continuous learning improvement, looking at risk management processes, and considering risks of patients and health workers. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the vulnerabilities of health systems worldwide, unveiling severe inequities in testing, tracking, triage, and care of the community regarding SARSCOV2 Infection. Family doctors have worked in all these clinical areas, advocating for not letting any patient behind, adapting health care from face-to-face to telemedicine, building up vulnerable patient lists to contact them to proactively guarantee continuity of care and support. At the same time, ensuring care for patients who required home visits or health centers for safe and continuous care. Family doctors are managing risks as frontline workers: promoting safe work environments with PPE, ventilation, distance, hand washing. Adapting health centres' infrastructures to new epidemiological realities. WONCA is committed to continuing its strong collaboration with WHO to meet the dreams of the Global action plan. WONCA will continue consultations and technical support with the WONCA Working Party on Quality & Safety. Quality in healthcare and safe care mean best health outcomes that are possible, given the available circumstances and resources consistent with patient centered care. Our vision is that the provision of quality healthcare in a safe environment should be universally available to all peoples.