

### **Building a “Global Forum for Primary Health Care (PHC):**

### **Establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) ”and the World Organisation of Family Doctors (WONCA)**

This year (2023) is the midpoint for achieving Universal Health Care (UHC) by 2030, as set out in the renewed Astana 2018 declaration. Progress has been disrupted by the pandemic which highlighted the importance of integrating public health and populations needs with strong PHC. Forty-five years on from the original Astana declaration the role of comprehensive PHC is even more crucial.

Yet there is a risk, exacerbated by the covid 19 pandemic of UHC becoming directed towards sub-specialist secondary and hospital services. During the pandemic, we witnessed the lack of priority given to PHC and public health globally, the inadequacy of hospital-based health systems and the resultant fragmentation of care. The current focus on the pandemic’s impact on hospital services and secondary care delivery is unfortunately detracting from crucial shortfalls in PHC services needed to deliver integrated health care to the masses, especially in rural communities. Inequities in health care are increasing. Overly simplistic solutions for PHC services are not sustainable.

Now is the time to:

- Renew the commitment to comprehensive health and social care, including PHC, as key to achieving UHC
- Highlight globally to governments, corporations, large philanthropic funding organisations and societies at large the urgent need to refocus on health and equity
- Create resilient health and social services, including public health and PHC, for a new era, acknowledging that no discipline can work in isolation.
- Work together to promote inter-professional and interdisciplinary public health and PHC teams committed to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) globally

We therefore welcome the move by WHO to support PHC services that are integrated, provide continuity of person-centered care and address inequities in access and outcomes .

To provide the best care in the most efficient manner and address human resource shortage, especially in Low-Middle Income Countries (LMICs), teamwork is needed. PHC Teams include a range of allied health workers; family doctors, nurses, medical assistants, public health professionals, community healthcare workers, and others.

It is crucial we bring together the leadership of all health worker organisations involved in global PHC. A Global Forum for Primary Health Care (GlobalPHC) will provide the voices of the PHC team and its supporters. Our aim is by joining to share and support each other together WFPHA and WONCA can advocate for comprehensive health and social care and achieve UHC.

### **WFPHA and WONCA support the call to:**

- 1. Highlight to governments globally the urgent need to refocus on achieving UHC.**
- 2. Renew the commitment to comprehensive PHC as the key to achieving this goal.**
- 3. Work together to promote inter-professional and interdisciplinary teamwork.**
- 4. Create resilient PHC services for a new era accepting no discipline can work in isolation.**
- 5. Collaborate on joint statements that demonstrate shared values and objectives.**
- 6. Form a task force to develop our collaboration.**
- 7. Aim to jointly launch a move towards a Global Forum for PHC in 2023.**