

High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth



Open Consultation: 27 May 2016

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION v26 April 2016

Date: 27 May 2016, 12:00 – 13:30

Venue: Room 5, International Labour Organization
4, route de Morillons, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland

Background

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set an ambitious agenda to ensure healthy lives for all, against a context where recent outbreaks have confirmed the urgency of building resilient health systems and strengthening global health security. The global economy is projected to create around 40 million new health sector jobs by 2030, mostly in middle- and high- income countries. This demand is unequal however, and despite the growth in jobs there will be a projected shortage of 18 million health workers to achieve and sustain the Sustainable Development Goals, primarily in low- and middle- income countries.

In response, Ban Ki-Moon United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) established the [High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth](#), on 2 March 2016. The Commission is charged with proposing actions to redress these inequities, and stimulate and guide the creation of health and social sector jobs for inclusive economic growth. These actions will harness the opportunity presented by the anticipated growth in employment to achieve improved health, global health security and the creation of decent work, particularly for women and youth.

The Commission is [chaired](#) by H.E. President of France, Mr François Hollande, and H.E. President of South Africa, Mr Jacob Zuma; and co-chaired by Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization, Mr Ángel Gurría, Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and Mr Guy Ryder, Director-General of the International Labour Organization. The [19 Commissioners](#) appointed by the UNSG represent policy and technical expertise from the education, employment, health and foreign affairs sectors of government, as well as representation from international organizations, academia, health-care professional associations, civil society and trade unions.

The traditional investment case in the health sector is the connection between health and increased wealth. Whilst this has been instrumental to progress, it has not sufficiently addressed the value of employment in the health sector and the type and scale of multi-sectoral actions required for a fit-for-purpose health workforce to provide universal health coverage. Investing in health employment

has the potential to yield a [triple return for economies, health and women](#). The Commission will examine ways in which investing in health employment yields broader socio-economic dividends.

Consultation

Goal The perspectives and recommendations of key stakeholders are critical to the work of the Commission. The goal of this open consultation is to seek input from diverse group of stakeholders on the key areas of interest to the Commission. A summary of the consultation will be prepared by the ILO/OECD/WHO technical secretariat.

Format The consultation will be held as a Town Hall style meeting, an informal large group discussion that will be moderated to maximize opportunities for participants to contribute their perspectives.

Agenda

12:00 – 12:15 Background, introductions and remarks

- Stephen Pursey, Director of Multilateral Cooperation, ILO
- Jim Campbell, Director, Health Workforce, WHO

12:15 – 13:15 Moderated audience discussion

1315 – 13:30 Concluding remarks and close

Consultation questions	For each question, discuss:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can health workforce investments be effectively and efficiently financed in order to achieve universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals? 2. How can we ensure gender sensitive policies that ensure decent working conditions and enable women and girls opportunities to enter the health and social sector workforce? 3. What are innovative ways of optimizing benefits and reducing risks arising from international migration of health workers? How can we improve the retention of health workers in countries of origin? 4. What multi-sectoral actions can be taken to enhance commitment for decent work and coherent health and social sector workforce policy and planning? 5. What institutional reforms are needed to strengthen governance for the health and social sector labour market? 	<p>What evidence-based recommendations should the Expert Group make to the Commission?</p>