



Statement

Item 3

ID with the SR on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

South Centre

Mr. President,

We welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health concerning Health and Care Workers as Defenders of the Right to Health.

The report correctly highlights the essential role of health and care workers in fulfilling the right to health for all, not merely as service providers.

The negative impact of health and care workforce migration is an important issue requiring attention. In particular, the effects of aggressive recruitment of health and care workforce from Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) to High Income Countries (HIC). In this regard, we note that Article 7 of the recently concluded WHO Pandemic Agreement makes an important contribution.

We support the commitment for Member States to minimise the negative impact of health and care workforce migration on health systems while respecting the freedom of movement of health professionals following guidelines such as the World Health Organization Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel recruitment of health workers from Low and Middle Income Countries.

Health workers providing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) comprehensive services face a unique set of multifaceted and interlinked challenges ranging from poor working conditions to direct threats of harassment and physical retaliation.

The failure to protect these essential workers constitutes a global crisis that violates their rights and systematically undermines health equity, gender equality, effective health response in emergencies and humanitarian crises, including Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

Therefore, we urge this Council and UN member states to advance the protection of health and care workers, including those providing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights services, by ensuring safe and fair working conditions, enhancing accountability by monitoring attacks against them and integrating their protection into global security agendas.

Health institutions, employers, and donors must fulfil their duty of care through comprehensive safety protocols, mental health support, and long-term, flexible funding for health sector organisations.

Protecting health and care workers should become a global effort to protect and guarantee human rights and health equity.

Thank you.