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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE ON THE REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMISSION ON HEALTH EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

21/12/16

... December 2016

Changing populations will generate a demand for 40 million new health worker jobs by 2030. However, most of these jobs will be created in wealthier countries. Without action, there will be a global shortfall of 18 million health workers to achieve and sustain universal health coverage, primarily in low- and lower-middle-income countries.

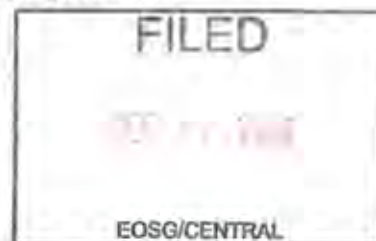
In response to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/183 on 'Global Health and Foreign Policy: Strengthening the Management of International Health Crises' on the 17 December 2015, I established the High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth on 2 March 2016 (the "Commission") and tasked it to propose solutions to this global challenge.

The Commission's report 'Working for Health and Growth: Investing in the Health Workforce' was launched on 20 September 2016 in New York.

It charts a bold shift in vision because it recognizes the health workforce not as a cost but as a driver of growth, an investment with tangible socio-economic returns. This investment will boost global security against outbreaks and other emergencies, and help countries achieve the 2030 Agenda for poverty elimination, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, and decent work and inclusive economic growth. The report makes 10 recommendations and proposes 5 immediate actions to advance progress across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I am pleased to welcome the Commission's Report on Health Employment and Economic Growth. The Ebola outbreak and the crisis in Syria have all too vividly illustrated the importance of protecting, supporting and investing in the health and social workforce. I encourage all stakeholders to review the report and its recommendations and agree on a way forward to ensure all countries can take bold action to build a sustainable global health workforce and align public and private investments to do so. Health workers save lives and they are critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, everywhere.

I congratulate the Commissioners for producing this important report and express my appreciation to the Commission co-chairs, the President of France, Mr. François Hollande, and the President of South Africa, Mr. Jacob Zuma; vice-chairs Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Mr. Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Mr. Guy Ryder, Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO); Commissioners; and Expert Group for their extraordinary leadership and contribution.



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HEA/03/004

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE

21 December 2016

Excellency,

I refer to your co-signed letter to the Secretary-General dated 16 November 2016, in which you requested his formal endorsement of the report of the High-level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth.

The report provides concrete recommendations to make health employment a priority. This is consistent with the ideals of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I am pleased to inform you that the Secretary-General will be issuing a statement welcoming the report and its recommendations.

A similar letter has been sent to His Excellency Mr. Jerry Matthews Matjila, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edmond Mulet'.

Edmond Mulet
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency
Mr. François Delattre
Permanent Representative of France
to the United Nations
New York

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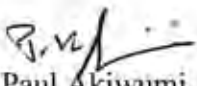
**Note to the Chef de Cabinet
(through the Deputy Secretary-General)**

Statement of the Secretary-General on the report of the High-level Commission
on Health Employment and Economic Growth

1. Please find attached, for your clearance and approval:

- a statement on the publication of the report of the High-level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth, and
- letters from yourself to the Permanent Representatives of France and South Africa, in response to their 16 November 2016 letter to the Secretary-General requesting his endorsement of the report.

2. The Development Unit, following consultations with WHO (as host of the High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth), ILO and OECD, recommends the publication of the attached statement to welcome the report.
3. The statement was drafted by WHO in conjunction with ILO and OECD, and reviewed by the Development Unit at EOSG. The letter was drafted by the Development Unit.


Paul Akiwumi
20 December 2016

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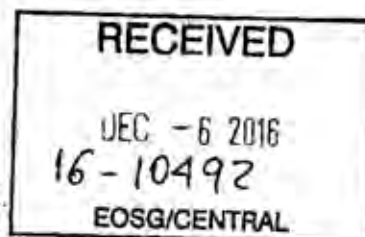
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20 December 2016

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New York, 16th November 2016

Mr Secretary-General,

You are aware of how highly France and South Africa value strengthening the actions of the international community in the area of world health.

After many months of work in collaboration with the WHO, ILO and OECD, as well as 19 prominent Commissioners, on 20 September 2016 our Heads of State submitted to you the report of the High Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic growth which you set up in March, and which they had the honour of co-chairing.

This report shows that investing in employment in health and social sectors is not just an international public health necessity. It is also a major economic and social opportunity to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth by creating decent jobs, particularly for women and young people and to encourage social cohesion. It is therefore a major way to help effectively implement the 2030 Agenda.

We believe that each of the ten recommendations contained in this report is essential. To mention just a few of them, we must transform health systems based on a model which is more focused on prevention and primary and outpatient healthcare, and which includes strengthening and preparing for crises and health emergencies. We must also develop new educational models aimed at high quality continuous education and strengthen national health information systems with a view to producing reliable and consolidated data based on harmonized definitions. We must also facilitate international recognition of the qualifications of health personnel and develop mechanisms to support migration and the mobility of health personnel in a fair and just manner.

These various observations must encourage us to take action. Joint, widespread, and urgent action to be carried out by all actors in the international community is indeed necessary to make health employment a priority.

To succeed in this endeavor and mobilize the international community on this major issue, it is essential that you send a strong message.

H.E. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Secretariat Building S-3800

HEA/03/004

In this regard, a formal endorsement of this report from you would be of great help, in which you could call on all actors - States, international and regional organizations, civil society, the private sector and training institutions - to continue the work that has already begun and to take concrete action to make its recommendations a reality.

Both our countries, as well as the three mobilized agencies (WHO, ILO and OPECID) are currently working to draw up an action plan to help the international community implement this report, and are at your disposal to work with your services to make this ambitious project a success.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



François Delattre
Représentant Permanent de la France auprès des
Nations Unies



Jerry Matthews Matjila
Représentant Permanent de l'Afrique
du Sud auprès des Nations Unies