

**71 session of the EMR Regional Committee**  
**Regional Flagship Initiative 2**

**Statement of I.R. Iran on:**  
**Investing in a Resilient Health Workforce**  
**Monday 14 Oct**  
**Session 5**  
**15:30 – 16:30**

The Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its gratitude to the Regional Director for including this important area as one of her priority flagships.

Islamic Republic of Iran has given priority to the Primary Health Care during last 4 decades. Utilizing multi-skilled, community-oriented health workers through specialized training for "Behvarz" in rural areas that has yielded significant outcomes.

Integration of medical education with healthcare delivery system since early 1980s has greatly enhanced synergies among medical and paramedical education, health service delivery and health workforce capacity and quality of care at all levels.

These achievements stem from coordinated actions, including increasing the number of universities and disciplines in medical sciences, improving training quality through curriculum revisions and designing it based on community needs, enhancing faculty members' quality, organizing regular in-service trainings, and revising professional boundaries. We have also established a research center specially for health workforce studies that provides necessary evidence and support to the policymakers. In addition, a reforms in payment of medical and nursing tariffs has applied across the country. However, challenges such as geographic disparities, skilled professional's shortages in remote areas, and rising migration rates persist due to imposed sanction and partially due to weak management at different levels as well as big differences between public and private sectors payments.

As rightly mentioned in the flagship report, countries in our region face significant challenges due to political and economic crises, leading to workforce shortages and their dissatisfaction. We fully agree with a smart set of core strategies highlighted in RD's flagship tackling international mobility of health professionals.

**Mr Chairman;**

Iran supports the Flagship' objectives and emphasizes the necessity for focusing on demographic changes and aging, strengthening public private partnership and increasing engagement of health workers in relevant decision-making processes.

In conclusion, we emphasize the initiative success relies largely on realistic and evidence-based national operational strategies considering countries' conditions, and more collaborative activities for exchanging experiences, particularly among neighboring countries.

**Thank you for your attention**