

17 June 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that I received the attached letters dated 15 June and 16 June 2021 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Georgia, Japan, Republic of South Africa, Thailand and Turkey to the United Nations, in which they request the holding of an informal meeting of the General Assembly to announce the launch of the Joint Statement , which is currently co-sponsored by 121 delegations.

In this regard, I intend to convene an informal meeting of the General Assembly on Tuesday, 22 June, from 3 to 4:30 p.m., in the General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters. It will be an open meeting and webcast live on UN Web TV.

I encourage all delegations to participate in this meeting. Please note that there will be no pre-



15 June 2021

Excellencies,

On behalf of the Permanent Missions of Brazil, Georgia, Japan, South Africa, Thailand and Turkey to the United Nations in New York, we have the honor to present a resolution sponsored by 12 signatories to date.

We recognize the efforts made by health workers in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic through measures to protect the health, safety and well-being of people and express our support to all continuous work emphasizing the importance of providing all health and workers with the necessary protection and support.

In this connection, we would kindly request that the enclosed statement, together with complete list of sponsors be issued as a document at the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda 131: Global health and foreign policy.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration

H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkır
President of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations
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Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations
Ambassador Ronaldo Costa Filho

Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations
Ambassador Kaha Imnadze

Joint statement in support of the International Year of Health and Care Workers

1. We recognize that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and note with deep concern its impact on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being

2. We reaffirm our solidarity with all people and countries affected by the pandemic, and condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims of COVID-19 and those whose lives and livelihoods have been affected by the pandemic

3. We recall resolutions 74/270 of 2019 and 75/276 of 2020 of the World Health Assembly on coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the need for international cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19 and other future health emergencies. We also recall the Secretary-General's report on the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which emphasizes the need for a coordinated and comprehensive response to the pandemic.

4. We recall World Health Assembly resolution 68.16 of 17

11. We are also aware of the impact of anxiety, distress, fatigue, occupational burnout, stigma and physical and psychological violence

12. We recognize health and care worker safety as a priority for patient safety and encourage countries to build appropriate working environments that optimize the delivery of safe health services.

13. We acknowledge the necessity to enhance the protection of and prevent acts of violence against, health care workers including in conflict

20. Weinvite

List of Cosponsors
Joint Statement in support of the International Year of Health and Care Workers

1. Afghanistan
2. Albania
3. Algeria
4. Andorra
5. Angola
6. Austria
7. Australia
8. Azerbaijan
9. Bahrain
10. Bangladesh
11. Belgium
12. Bolivia
13. Bosnia and Herzegovina
14. Botswana
15. Brazil
16. Brunei Darussalam
17. Bulgaria
18. Burkina Faso



16 June 2021

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Permanent Missions of Brazil, Georgia, Japan, South Africa, Thailand and Turkey to the United Nations New York with reference to our letter dated 5 June 2021, presenting a joint statement which is cosponsored by 12 signatories we would kindly request your Excellency to convene an informal meeting of the General Assembly, at your earliest convenience, in order to announce the launch of the mentioned joint statement.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration

H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozk
President of the 75th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly

11. We are also deeply concerned by the high levels of anxiety, distress, fatigue, occupational burnout, stigma and physical and psychological violence

12. We recognize health and care worker safety as a priority for patient safety and urge countries to build appropriate working environments that optimize the delivery of safe health services.

13. We acknowledge the necessity to enhance the protection of and prevent acts of violence against, health care workers including in conflict zones to better ensure accountability for violations, in accordance with international humanitarian law, where applicable.

14. We are concerned by the global mismatch between the supply, need, demand and distribution of health workers and the estimated shortfall of 18 million health workers, primarily in low and lowermiddle income countries

15. We are concerned with the severe shortage of health and care personnel in many countries, in particular developing countries, which constitute a major threat to the performance of health systems and therefore stress the importance of ethical international recruitment

20. We invite Member States and all relevant stakeholders to support the International Year
of Vaccines and Vaccination 2019-2020. We call upon Member States to ensure that health and
care workforces are fully protected, motivated, and equipped to deliver health care at all times
in particular health and care workers at the forefront of the pandemic response who must be
offered priority access to vaccination against COVID-19.

21. We call upon Member States and all relevant stakeholders to ensure that health and
care workforces are fully protected, motivated, and equipped to deliver health care at all times
in particular health and care workers at the forefront of the pandemic response who must be
offered priority access to vaccination against COVID-19.