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STATEMENT BY THE WORLD ORGANIZATION OF FAMILY DOCTORS

By Dr Christine Tinio

The World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) is a not-for-profit organization and was founded in 1972 by member organizations in 18 countries. WONCA now has 118 Member Organizations in 130 countries and territories representing 500,000 family doctors and covering more than 90 per cent of the world's population.

On this occasion of 65th WHO-Regional Committee for WPR, it is my privilege to make a statement on Regional strategy on non-communicable diseases (agenda 15.4) and universal health coverage (agenda 15.8)

Family medicine/general practice assumes an important role in supporting the delivery of person-centered and integrated care. *The World Organization of Family Doctors believes that the role of family medicine/general practice is important in helping achieve universal health coverage and addressing emerging challenges such as non-communicable diseases, and it recommends that:*

- Every medical school in the world should have an academic department of family medicine/general practice, or an equivalent academic focus;*
- Every medical student in the world should experience family medicine/general practice as early as possible and as often as possible during their training*
- It is urgently needed to invest in training family doctors/general practitioners and design health systems where family doctors/general practitioners are a fundamental and valued part.*

I am thankful for WHO-WPRO for giving me the opportunity to participate and make a statement on this prestigious gathering.

Thanking you all.