



Fifth Global Forum on
Human Resources for Health
3–5 April 2023

Protect. Invest. Together. 

Protecting, safeguarding and investing in the health and care workforce

Call for submissions: parallel sessions

Deadline: 30 November 2022 by 12:00 midnight CEST

Background:

The Fifth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health¹ is organized, during the 2023 World Health Worker Week, under the theme of **protecting, safeguarding** and **investing** in the health and care workforce. The Forum will bring together high-level stakeholders from across the world for a 3-day hybrid in-person and virtual event. This presents an opportunity to

1. Share progress on the implementation of the Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030; and
2. Examine the required policy solutions, investments and multisectoral actions needed to address health and care workforce challenges and build their capacities and capabilities to advance health systems towards universal health coverage and health security.

The Forum Secretariat invites proposals, to be co-developed by more than one group/organization/entity, for sessions that will take place in a parallel fashion as part of the programme.

Parallel sessions are 90 minutes long and focus on interventions and innovations across the following three categories: technical (policy and practice), scientific (research and innovations) and advocacy and action-based.

The submitters are responsible for organizing the session, including deciding the title, inviting the speakers, moderators, and the format of the session. Please note that the Forum is not accepting individual abstracts. As such, session organizers should be a team that takes responsibility for confirming, coordinating and communicating with all the panelists/speakers and moderators of their session.

All sessions will be accessible virtually on a dedicated platform.

<https://www.who.int/teams/health-workforce/about/5thglobalforum-hrh/>

Proposals for parallel sessions are sought from a range of actors: policy makers, planners, non-governmental organizations at global and national levels and civil society organizations, practitioners, academia, researchers and decision makers across sectors, including health, labour, education, gender and finance. Reflecting the intersectoral and multi-disciplinary nature of human resources for health, proposals that engage a variety of stakeholders are most welcome, as is bringing in lived experience as a health and care worker, where appropriate.

Submissions need to relate to one or more of the overarching questions of the Forum:

1. Considering progress made to date and lessons learned and opportunities from the COVID-19 pandemic, what type of policy solutions and investments in the health and care workforce are needed to advance on integrated health and care services and the essential public health functions, including emergency preparedness and response?
2. How do we overcome market failures between education and employment in the health and care sector?
3. How can Governments generate the capital and operational investments for health and care workforce in the context of increasing pressure on fiscal space for government expenditure on education, health, and social protection? What are the roles of international financing institutions, multilateral development banks and other partners in this new economic reality and can they come together to form Partnerships for Public Purpose?

Session formats:

Panel discussions (with presentations): Total time: 90 minutes. Up to four presenters and a moderator/chairperson. A panel discussion is meant to examine a specific topic from the different points of view or experiences of the presenters. Presentations should not exceed 10 minutes with at least 30 minutes Q & A and discussion period to allow for audience participation.

Debates or roundtable discussions (without presentations): Total time: 90 minutes. Between three to five speakers and a skilled moderator to facilitate discussions among panelists around specific thematic/topic area. It is advised that panelists prepare for their participation in the roundtables in terms of the themes and key issues that will be discussed; and the professional and country experiences they can draw upon for these discussions. At least 30 minutes for Q & A and discussion period is recommended to allow audience participation.

Interactive workshops: Total time: 90 minutes. Organizers are encouraged to think creatively when designing their sessions, noting as well the hybrid nature of the conference. Interactive workshops are opportunity to promote knowledge exchange, partnership building and networking, and creative ways of sharing lessons and concrete actions from the field. Interactive workshops should include no more than 20 minutes of presentations/statements and a clear definition for the outcomes/outputs of the workshop.

Submission of proposals:

- Submission deadline: **30 November 2022, 12:00 midnight CEST**
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Parallel session guidelines:

Please use the following guidelines when preparing your proposal submission:

- Background (max 250 words): Explain the topic to be addressed, need and rationale for the session.
- Session description (max 300 words): Describe the session's contribution to cutting-edge developments, evidence, practice or policy across sectors.
- Learning objectives and intended participants (max 100 words): Outline who the intended participants are and what they can expect to learn through this session.
- Main messages (max 100 words): Summarize the value added and intended impact of your proposed session in 2-3 brief key messages.
- Include a statement on how the submission addresses equity and issues of diversity in the health and care workforce, gender equality and human rights (max 150 words).
- Describe the approach to ensuring an interactive session and integrating feedback from the hybrid audience (max 150 words).
- Include an indicative list of speakers, including organization, country, gender and name of chair/moderator. Ensure gender balance, geographical representation, and diversity of actors e.g. inclusion of civil society, NGOs etc.

Sessions focusing on advocacy should offer practical insights into programming/advocacy (tactics) and lessons learnt.

We encourage organizers to spend a few minutes at the end of their session sharing key messages and main outcomes of their session. Each session will be followed by an interview to provide a summary of key discussion points and conclusions to be made available publicly on Forum platform.

Session organizers should aim to ensure:

- sessions are collaborative and co-developed by more than one group/organization/entity.
- various sectors are represented (health; education; labour; gender; etc);
- a productive balance between presentations and dialogue with the audience and to develop/discuss solutions; and
- significant contributions from each speaker (we suggest no more than four speakers per session, including the moderator)

It is a requirement for organizing a virtual parallel session that organizers ensure good internet connection (land connection) and high quality microphones.

All presentations will need to be shared with organizers (no later than 15 March 2023) and will be made available on WHO website after the Forum. Sessions will be recorded.

If your session is accepted, you will be requested to provide a biography of max 100 words and a photo for each speaker/moderator.