WHA 70 WFSA STATEMENT: Agenda Item 16.1. Progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The WFSA represents hundreds of thousands of anaesthesiologists in over 140 countries around the world, and, as a member of the G4 Alliance, the WFSA advocates for the 5 billion neglected patients who do not have access to safe surgical, obstetric, trauma and anaesthesia care.

The WFSA supports the draft decision point proposed by Monaco and Zambia under Agenda Item 16.1 which requests the Director General report every three years on global progress of implementation of resolution WHA 68.15 adopted in 2015.

In addition, the WFSA strongly supports the proposal made by Kenya yesterday on behalf of the African member states, and supported by Zambia and Namibia, to request the Director General develop a Global Action Plan to guide and facilitate the implementation of commitments in resolution WHA 68.15 for strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of Universal Health Coverage.

Safe anaesthesia and safe surgery are essential components of Universal Health Coverage and critical to the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At present an estimated 18 million people continue to die each year from preventable surgical conditions. Global health goals on maternal child health, NCDs, AMR, and trauma cannot be achieved without safe surgery and anaesthesia.

In line with WHA resolution 68.15, more and more countries are developing national surgery and anaesthesia plans of action, including that released by Zambia this week. It is imperative that a Global Action Plan for emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia be developed alongside national action plans in order to mobilize the resource sharing and finances needed for their successful implementation.

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