4.10 Strategy and Plan of Action to Improve Quality of Care in Health Service Delivery 2020-2025

Anaesthesiologists have a particular focus on quality of care, safety of perioperative care and the impact on patient outcomes. In May 2018 the WHO-WFSA International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anesthesia was published, providing guidance and assistance to anaesthesiologists and other anaesthesia providers, anaesthesia national societies and other professional organizations, hospital and facility administrators, and governments for maintaining and improving the quality and safety of anaesthesia care.

The WFSA would like to suggest three recommendations to the seventy-first session of the Regional Committee for the Americas:

1) Promote the WHO-WFSA joint International Standards for a Safe Practice of Anesthesia among member states: these Standards highlight what is required to provide safe anaesthesia and perioperative care for patients worldwide,

2) Continue their commitment to WHA Resolution 68.15: Strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of universal health coverage,

3) Include safe anaesthesia and safe surgery in the patient safety discourse: 5 out of the world’s 7 billion people are unable to access safe, timely affordable anaesthesia and surgery. This leads to 18.6 million preventable early deaths each year.

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