4.8 Strategy and Plan of Action on Health Promotion within the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals 2019-2030

Universal access to safe anaesthesia and safe surgery is crucial to Sustainable Development Goal 3.8 on Universal Health Coverage, and yet 5 out of the world’s 7 billion people lack access to safe, affordable and timely anaesthesia and surgical care. Good health and well-being and Universal Health Coverage cannot be achieved without a scale up of surgical services worldwide, as outlined in the unanimously-passed WHA Resolution 68.15: Strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of universal health coverage.

The WFSA therefore suggests two recommendations to the seventy-first session of the Regional Committee for the Americas:

1) Include safe anaesthesia and safe surgery in the discourse of the SDGs: it is estimated that, each year, more than four times as many people die from surgical conditions than HIV, tuberculosis and malaria combined.
2) Promote National Surgical, Obstetric and Anaesthesia Plans within countries, directly related to Objective 1.1 in The Strategy And Plan Of Action, urging Member States to continue their commitments to achieving SDG Goal 3, target 3.8 on achieving Universal Health Coverage, reminding them of the important role of safe anaesthesia and surgery in reaching this objective.

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