Expressing deep concern over the current outbreak of the Ebola virus disease, which demonstrates the urgency of having strong health systems capable of implementing the International Health Regulations, pandemic preparedness and universal health coverage that promotes universal access to health services, which would assist in the prevention and detection of possible outbreaks, as well as of having motivated, well-trained and appropriately equipped health workers, and emphasizing the need for Member States and other relevant institutions to extend urgently all possible means of support to the affected countries to end the Ebola outbreak, while noting the importance of evidence-based responses to prevent fear, stigma and discrimination,

Taking note of multisectoral efforts, including the Global Health Security Agenda, to strengthen global capacity to prevent, detect and respond to infectious diseases, in particular by promoting sustainable and resilient national health systems, surveillance systems and response protocols,

Stressing that the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the development of resilient health systems and advancement of the attainment of universal health coverage are enhanced by the respect for Member States, non-State actors and private individuals for the integrity and safety of medical and health personnel in carrying out their duties and of their means of transport and installations,

Acknowledging the need to prevent and address the exposure of health workers to hazardous working environments and violent incidents and the consequent trauma suffered by them in various forms, through, for example, improved specific training in public health administration and services, patient management and other health-worker support mechanisms, so as to ensure the safety, productivity and efficiency of the workforce and improved access to health-care services,

Stressing that medical and health personnel have a duty to provide competent medical service in full professional and moral independence, with compassion and respect for human dignity, and always to bear in mind human life and to act in the patient’s best interest under their respective professional codes of ethics,

Reaffirming the rules and principles of international humanitarian law, including the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977 and 2005, as applicable, as well as international customary law concerned with the protection of medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, hospitals and other medical facilities,

Reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance and the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of humanitarian emergencies, armed conflicts and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

Deploring acts of violence or threats of violence against medical and health personnel worldwide in armed conflict and emergency situations, and stressing that such acts are detrimental to the development of sustainable health systems and the integrity of the professional codes of ethics of medical and health personnel,

Noting that locally recruited humanitarian personnel and health-care personnel are particularly vulnerable to...