attacks and account for the majority of casualties among humanitarian and health-care workers,

Recognizing that one of the most serious threats to medical and health personnel is posed by armed conflicts, acknowledging the risk to such personnel in situations that do not constitute armed conflict, and noting that it is the responsibility of national Governments to carry out appropriate preventive and remedial measures,

Reaffirming the role of the World Health Organization as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work in accordance with its Constitution, and acknowledging the key role of the Organization and other relevant international organizations in providing support to Member States, as appropriate and upon request, in the development and implementation of preventive measures to promote the safety of medical and health personnel, their means of transport and installations and respect for their respective professional codes of ethics,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director General of the World Health Organization on global health and foreign policy;

2. Urges Member States to protect, promote and respect the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and to consider health in a holistic manner, including by considering health issues in the formulation of foreign policy;

3. Calls upon Member States to promote adequate incentives and an enabling and safe working environment for the effective retention and equitable distribution of the health workforce and to implement the World Health Organization Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel as a guide to strengthen health systems through sustainable access to qualified personnel;

4. Invites the World Health Organization to provide technical support to Member States upon request in order to strengthen their capacity to deal with public health emergencies and the implementation of the International Health Regulations, with particular focus on developing countries, in order to build capacity, strengthen health systems and promote financial sustainability, training, recruitment and retention of human resources for health and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms;

5. Calls for the development and attainment by Member States of resilient and sustainable health systems that accelerate the transition towards universal health coverage in such a way as to ensure undisturbed and accessible services for their populations, and stresses that medical and health personnel should be able to offer appropriate assistance without obstruction, threat or physical attack and in line with their respective professional codes of ethics and scope of practice;

6. Calls for all Member States and all stakeholders to respect the integrity of medical and health personnel in carrying out their duties in line with their respective professional codes of ethics and scope of practice;

7. Recalls World Health Assembly resolution 65.20, which calls for leadership to be provided at the global level in developing methods for systematic collection of data on attacks on health facilities, health workers, health vehicles and patients in complex humanitarian emergencies, in coordination with relevant United Nations bodies, other relevant actors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, avoiding duplication of efforts;

8. Strongly condemns all attacks on medical and health personnel, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and deplores the long-term consequences of such attacks for the population and health-care systems of the countries concerned;

9. Urges full respect for 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, stresses the obligation, in accordance with international humanitarian law and applicable national laws and regulations, to respect and protect medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, in all circumstances, notes in this regard the role of domestic legal frameworks and other appropriate measures in promoting the safety and protection of such personnel, and urges States to develop effective measures to prevent and address violence against such personnel;

10. Urges Member States, in accordance with obligations under relevant provisions of international human rights law, including the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to promote equal access to health services and to respect and protect medical and health personnel from obstruction, threats and physical attacks;

11. Invites the World Health Organization and other relevant international organizations to develop their capacity to assist Member States, including through the promotion of research, and, upon request and through technical cooperation and other means, to develop appropriate preventive measures to enhance and promote the safety and protection of medical and health personnel, their means of transport and installations, to improve the resilience of health systems and to promote the effective implementation of universal health coverage;

12. Notes that challenges in global health still remain and demand persistent attention, and that this urgently requires the fulfillment of commitments to strengthen the global partnership for development, emphasizing in particular in this regard North-South cooperation, as well as the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation and the exchange of best practices, as well as capacity-building and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, to address health inequities in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development, in line with national priorities;

13. Urges Member States, in cooperation, as appropriate, with relevant international organizations and relevant non-State actors, to develop effective preventive measures to enhance and promote the safety and protection of medical and health personnel, as well as respect for their respective professional codes of ethics, including but not restricted to:

(a) Clear and universally recognized definitions and norms for the identification and marking of medical and health personnel, their means of transport and installations;

(b) Specific and appropriate educational measures for medical and health personnel, State employees and the general population;