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**World Health Organization**  
**EB 144 – January 2019**

**5.5 Community Health Workers delivering primary health care:  
opportunities and challenges**

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Thank you Chai,

We would like to thank the Director General and the secretariat for the preparatory report for this meeting. We also want to take this opportunity to commend WHO's comprehensive and well informed work on the "guideline on health policy and system support to optimize community health worker programs", that is reflected in part in the report before us.

We note our deep concern with the mismatch that often exists between the important role of community health workers in delivering health services, including primary health care, and their professional skills and capacities.

In order to enhance the contribution of community health workers to promoting healthy populations, it is crucial that we invest in their capacities. We thus support the WHO's policy recommendations, as reflected in the report, and especially the reference to pre-service education and pre-service training, as well as competency-based formal certification.

A necessary step in that direction would be to include community health worker programs in wider health related national policies. This would in turn support community health workers in providing safe and quality care, and consequently stronger health systems.

We thank you Chair.