



## **A call for urgent action to protect health professionals and carers**

We mourn the loss of our colleagues and all the health care professionals. The COVID-19 Pandemic is leading to the death of many patients every day. And it is also taking a bitter toll on those who are caring for them.

We express our solidarity with the physicians and all the health professionals, care workers, and informal caregivers who are looking after patients every day. Much of the time they are doing their work without minimum standards of personal protection. It is deplorable that even in the world's most affluent countries the simplest standards of protection cannot be maintained and HCP's are sent defenceless into the burning fire of infection.

Furthermore, there are not enough staff, not enough equipment, and not enough places in intensive care units.

We therefore urge governments worldwide and the World Health Organization to:

- 1) Urgently provide all health care units in need with the necessary protective equipment (PPE)
- 2) Set up sustainable supply chains for PPE
- 3) Prioritize the delivery of PPE to health care units
- 4) Build and distribute a sufficient number of ventilators to care for ailing patients
- 5) Assure the existence of a sufficient amount of beds (places) in ICU's to treat all patients without compromising ethical decisions

At the end of the present COVID-19 crisis, we demand a political investigation into the availability and effectiveness of supply chains and the risks of globalization in world threatening pandemic situations.

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President

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Chair of Council