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Tracy Carson
U.S. Health Attaché to the U.S. Permanent Mission in Geneva
11, Route de Pregny
Case Postale 2354
1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

Dear Mrs. Carson,

On behalf of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM) and our Global Academy of Emergency Medicine (GEMA), we are writing to express our wholehearted support for the recent decision made by the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board (EB152/3) to recommend the adoption of a resolution on “Integrated emergency, critical and operative care for universal health coverage and protection from health emergencies” by the World Health Assembly. This decision presents a crucial opportunity for coordinated action in countries and offers a strong foundation for ongoing advocacy across the global emergency, critical, surgical, and anaesthesia care communities.

Emergency, critical, and operative care (ECO) services are an indispensable part of a comprehensive primary health-care approach and are essential to meeting people’s health needs across their lives. The fact that the proposed resolution has already received formal co-sponsorship from over 80 countries spanning all regions indicates the broad support among Member States.

The recent pandemic has exposed pervasive gaps in healthcare capacity and has transformed our understanding of health systems and emergency response. While gaps in primary, emergency, or critical care directly hindered an effective response, the most disrupted category of health services was elective surgery. Many countries are expected to face the resulting surgical backlog for decades to come. The need for an integrated approach to emergency, critical, and operative care has become even more evident, as major conflicts and devastating earthquakes have overlapped the waning of the pandemic. Only an integrated approach to the full emergency, critical, and operative care continuum, linked effectively to robust primary care, can ensure effective preparedness, readiness, and response.

The proposed resolution builds on, integrates, and renews the mandate of prior World Health Assembly resolutions. The efforts under the banner of global emergency care, global critical care, and global surgery and anaesthesia movements have significantly raised awareness through the mandates of the prior resolutions. The proposed resolution strengthens these agendas and lays a robust foundation for sustained action and effective implementation.

Successful implementation of the outlined mandates in this proposed resolution will require broad engagement from governments, communities, partners, and a range of other stakeholders. Therefore, we urge the American government to support this resolution and work towards implementing an integrated approach to emergency, critical, and operative care for universal health coverage and protection from health emergencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy Coates", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Wendy Coates, MD
SAEM President