



ESMO Public Statement regarding the new Framework for Action on the Health and Care Workforce in the WHO European Region 2023–2030

The [European Society for Medical Oncology \(ESMO\)](#) – one of the leading professional organisations for medical oncology, representing more than 33,000 cancer professionals from 170 countries – welcomes the new Framework for Action on the Health and Care Workforce in the WHO European Region 2023–2030, and calls on WHO Europe Member States to implement the measures adopted at the 73rd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe on 26 October 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

As an estimated [1 in 5 people will develop cancer over their life course](#) and with [no improvements in service coverage for non-communicable diseases \(NCDs\), including cancer, since 2015](#), the world desperately needs more specialized cancer doctors to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2030. According to the [ESMO Resilience Task Force Survey Series](#), since the breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic, oncology professionals have continued to report increased job demands, concerns over career development and job security, and inadequate time for personal life, with 49% of the respondents declaring professional burnout.

Recognising that the new resolution needs to be put immediately into action and that the well-being of the oncology workforce is essential to ensure the delivery of optimal care to patients with cancer, ESMO urges national governments to scale up the critical investments in the healthcare workforce needed to achieve universal health coverage by:

- Increasing health financing, recruitment, training, and retention of the workforce to enable efficient service delivery for all patients.
- Ensuring robust referrals across the continuum of care to provide optimal, timely and affordable access from primary to secondary care, tertiary care, and specialist care where cancer patients are predominantly treated, and palliative care.
- Implementing the recommendations of the '[Global health and care workers compact](#)' to prevent harm - including psychosocial risks, and to provide resources, ensure inclusivity and safeguard the rights of all health and care workers.

In addition, ESMO stands ready to support countries with the education and training of medical oncologists through the use of regularly updated cancer resources such as the [Global Curriculum in Medical Oncology](#).