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*Addressing the international, internal and public/private dimensions of the migration of health workers*

Discussions in international fora over the past few years have advanced the debate surrounding international migration and human resources for health, and in particular its north –south dimension. International migration of health workers makes winners and losers of stakeholders in both source and destination countries, but can carry the most adverse consequences for the poorest countries. Unequal distribution of human resources for health within and among regions raises serious concerns regarding current and future quality of and access to health care. More refined analysis is needed to evaluate the impacts and to help inform policies. An examination of the common factors across regions in the relationship between migration and human resources for health can help illuminate emerging trends and areas ripe for collaboration.

Now is the time for action. A cooperative and comprehensive approach to the migration of health workers, in the context of globalization of health services and in recognition of its health, migration and labour dimensions, is required. Building on an awareness of the multi-dimensional aspects of the migration of health workers and the importance of policy intervention, innovative solutions are now to be found, with the participation of all key stakeholders. Governments can best address this issue through partnerships with other governments, international organizations, the private sector, and migrants themselves. This conference presents a valuable opportunity for the establishment of such partnerships and for the sharing of knowledge and lessons learned.