WFPHA Intervention – National Focal Points V/7 – 25 June 2025

Thank you Co-Chair, I am Andrea Rother, a Professor at the University of Cape town in South Africa, speaking on behalf of the World Federation of Public Health Associations.

National Focal Points of the GFC should play a key role in implementing the framework at the national level. However, the list of responsibilities and expectations for national focal points is high and often with limited support. We, therefore, see the development of guidelines for national focal points under Resolution V/7, and the provision of implementation support for these guidelines as vital to the success of the framework and its implementation programmes.

We acknowledge and appreciate the current work of the secretariat, fostering a multistakeholder approach to developing the guideline. We encourage continued engagement with national focal points, especially from low- and middle-income countries, so that the guideline is not just emphasizing what the expectations are of their role, but rather gives concrete details on how the focal points can be supported to implement their tasks.

We, furthermore, encourage the Secretariat to use regular intercessional online spaces to build the capacity of focal points consistently. This would also provide a platform for focal points to share the challenges they are experiencing and identify opportunities.

Finally, we appreciate the acknowledgement that there needs to be GFC focal points representatives from health, labour and the environment ministries for promoting multisectoral collaboration to truly occur. The World Federation of Public Health Associations encourages consideration of an indicator to measure multisectoral collaboration within the GFC and in countries. For example, there could be an indicator on how many countries have multisectoral/multistakeholder mechanisms, such as the multistakeholder committee on chemicals management in South Africa which meets quarterly. Furthermore, there could be an indicator on which sectors are represented by focal points attending GFC meetings.

We look forward to future GFC intercessional and conference meetings where health and labour sectors are well represented, particularly from LMICs.

Thank you, cochair.