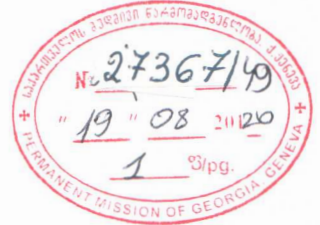




Ref.: C.L.33.2020



### World Patient Safety Day – 17 September 2020

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and has the honour to inform them that WHO is working with international and national stakeholders to plan for World Patient Safety Day 2020, which will be observed and celebrated across the world on 17 September.

World Patient Safety Day was established by the World Health Assembly resolution Global action on patient safety (WHA72.6) in May 2019, in order to increase public awareness and engagement, enhance global understanding and work towards global solidarity and action by Member States to promote patient safety. The resolution also urges Member States to mark World Patient Safety Day annually to promote all aspects of patient safety, including progress towards reaching national milestones.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has exerted unprecedented pressure on health systems worldwide unveiling the daunting challenges that health workers are continuously facing especially at the front line. Recognizing the importance of having a safe, healthy, knowledgeable, skilled and motivated health workforce for the provision of safe care to patients, WHO is proposing **“Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety”** as the theme for World Patient Safety Day 2020. The Day aims to raise global awareness of the importance of prioritizing and addressing health worker safety as a prerequisite for patient safety. This will be showcased by the slogan **“Safe health workers, Safe patients”** and the call for action **“Speak up for health worker safety!”**. Campaign announcement can be downloaded at: <https://www.who.int/patientsafety/world-patient-safety-day/announcement-letter/en/>.

WHO headquarters, WHO regional offices and WHO country offices will be pleased to work with Member States to make this day a great success in 2020, by laying a strong foundation for action to ensure health worker safety is a priority for patient safety. Further information is available at: <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-patient-safety-day/2020>.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 19 August 2020