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Giorgio Cometto started his career as a physician working in Rumbek Hospital in South Sudan in the early 2000s. He has been involved in health services organisation, technical assistance, health policy, planning and financing work at national, regional and global levels, working for international NGOs, the Italian Development Cooperation, and the World Health Organization. His current responsibilities at the Global Health Workforce Alliance include research and advocacy in support of evidence-based health workforce policies for universal health coverage. He is the focal point for the development of a global strategy on human resources for health.

Presenting:
**Tackling Health workforce challenges to universal health coverage:
Setting targets and measuring progress**

Summary:

The Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA), a partnership hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO), works towards the vision that everyone, everywhere should have access to a skilled and motivated health worker, within a supporting health system. GHWA and WHO work jointly to analyse challenges, identify solutions, and support their adoption by governments and other stakeholders to accelerate efforts in the field of human resources for health at national, regional and global levels. As part of this, GHWA and WHO work to identify health workforce requirements for the attainment of health goals, and to track progress in efforts aimed at improving health workforce availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality.

A transformative and forward-looking health workforce agenda needs to reflect new realities, opportunities and challenges, building on experience and lessons learned to date. This presentation will share evidence and insights from one decade of efforts on policy, research and advocacy at the international level on setting targets and monitoring progress for health workforce development efforts, underscoring the central role of human resources for health data for accountability and sound policy making.

The centrality of health workers in achieving health outcomes has long been known. But now we have better evidence than ever before on what works and what doesn't in health workforce development across different aspects, ranging from planning, education, management, retention, incentives, linkages with the social service workforce. To ensure this evidence translates into policy, GHWA and WHO are developing a global strategy on human resources for health to address in an integrated way all these aspects, so as to inspire and inform more incisive, multi-sectorial action, based on new evidence and best practices, at national level by planners and policy makers, and at global level by the international community.

The United Nations Member States are working to identify a new set of global development goals for the period 2016-2030, to follow the MDGs of the period 2000-2015. The health workforce is one of the areas under consideration as part of the proposed health objective. The development



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of a global strategy on human resources for health aims at the early stages to influence the decisions on the post-2015 development agenda; and once these broader goals and targets have been set at a political level, the global strategy on HRH will provide concrete recommendations on how to achieve them at a more technical level.

