70th WHO RC meeting, Maldives

WFME Statement-2017

The World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) is the non-governmental organization in official relations with the World Health Organization with a mission to enhance the quality of medical education world-wide and to promote the highest standards in medical education thereby improving healthcare. This mission is met primarily through the development of standards in medical education and by the promotion of accreditation of medical schools.

WFME strongly endorses the WHO agenda to strengthen health workforce and wishes to contribute in any ways possible.

The accreditation of medical education is of highest importance. Accreditation of medical education is normally carried out by National agencies authorized by their governments. Following the WHO/WFME Guidelines for Accreditation of Basic Medical Education (2005), WFME has developed criteria for accreditation and it promotes accreditation of medical education in all the regions.

The proliferation of number of medical schools in many countries of SEAR poses a significant challenge to maintaining the quality of medical education. It is important that accreditation of medical education gains strength in the region in order to discourage/ derecognize low quality medical schools.

To maintain standards of medical education that are globally relevant though contextual it is essential that the accreditation agencies follow set guidelines and procedures. The process for evaluation of accreditation programs and agencies is set out in the statement of WFME policy on the Recognition of accrediting agencies. This policy would be useful for the accreditation agencies that may be furnished in the region to ensure development of competent health workforce.