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International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering

Meeting:

Seventy-third World Health Assembly

Agenda Item:

- Written statements exceptionally considered under provisional agenda item 3 Address by WHO Director-General devoted to the COVID-19 pandemic response in advance of the opening of the Health Assembly

Statement:

By IFMBE endorsed by HUMATEM

The Covid-19 crisis has drawn major international attention to the need and role of mechanical ventilators, and other medical equipment in the treatment of Covid-19 patients. They were in insufficient number in Covid-19 treatment centers and not available from manufacturers in enough quantities.

During this pandemic, the IFMBE has collaborated with the WHO to promote the optimal use of ventilators and equipment present in the Covid-19 treatment centers, with training webinars, the dissemination of information to clinical engineers to ensure their optimal use and the safety of patients and staff, to encourage the development of innovative equipment validated by a regulatory body of the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF).

IFMBE welcomes the Resolution's call

for, in the spirit of unity and solidarity, intensification of cooperation and collaboration at all levels to contain, control and mitigate the Covid-19 pandemic. Together we can make it better !
to ensure global unhindered timely access to quality, safe, efficient and affordable medical equipment
to ensure that restrictions on the movement of medical equipment in the context of Covid-19 are temporary, specific and include exceptions as required by humanitarian organizations for their operations.
to collaborate to promote open innovation in medical equipment and share relevant information with WHO.

Its call to work collaboratively at all levels to develop, test, and scale-up production of safe, effective, quality, affordable diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines, is also valid for medical equipment.

IFMBE recalls that to reach these goals, clinical engineers are lacking, mainly in LMICs, as recognized in the roadmap for access to medicine, vaccine and other health products, 2019-2023, discussed during WHA72.

IFMBE stands ready to work with WHO, Member States and other stakeholders to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic.

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