

# Non-State Actor Statement

## Leveraging rehabilitation at the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly (22- 28 May 2022)

### Statement submitted in relation to agenda item 16.2. – Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies

Rehabilitation has demonstrated its relevance in the acute and subacute phases, as well as for long-term conditions (including post-COVID symptoms) related to infectious disease outbreaks.

Rehabilitation services should continue to be provided throughout outbreaks, as they are essential for many persons with chronic conditions or disabilities.

The International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, supported by Global Rehabilitation Alliance and its members, calls to integrate rehabilitation in pandemic preparedness and response:

- Meet the rehabilitation needs of people affected by pandemics and other groups requiring continuous access to it, by providing rehabilitation services at all levels of health and via alternative modalities like telerehabilitation.
- Leverage rehabilitation onto the agenda of the WHA. Setting commitments to advance rehabilitation cannot be further delayed.

#### **This statement is endorsed by (in alphabetical order) :**

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
Global Alliance for Musculoskeletal Health Executive Committee  
Global Rehabilitation Alliance  
Handicap International Federation/ Humanity & Inclusion  
International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics  
International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine  
International Spinal Cord Society  
World Confederation for Physical Therapy / World Physiotherapy  
World Federation of Chiropractic  
World Federation of Occupational Therapists

