



The Chiang Mai Declaration

Nursing and Midwifery for Primary Health Care

February 2008

We, more than 700 nurses, midwives, physicians and other professions from 33 countries across all six regions working in healthcare organisations, communities, universities, governments, non-governmental organisations and the private sector, as participants at the *International Conference on New Frontiers in Primary Health Care: Role of Nursing and Other Professions*, February 4th – 6th, 2008, in Chiang Mai Thailand, unanimously endorse this **Chiang Mai Declaration**.

This year, 2008, is the 30th anniversary of the Alma Ata Declaration that launched the Primary Health Care (PHC) movement, thereby advancing the health of all people.

We recognise that progress in achieving the Alma Ata goal of health for all has been mixed, considerable advances have been made but still many gaps and inequities exist.

We applaud and join in the United Nations commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), recognising that several of which depend upon successful Primary Health Care.

We declare that:

Nursing and Midwifery is a vital component of the health workforce and are acknowledged professionals who contribute significantly to the achievements of PHC and the MDGs.

Nurses and midwives can successfully lead health teams that are essential for successful PHC to achieve MDGs.

PHC and the MDGs will not be fully achieved if the nursing and midwifery workforce continues to be neglected.

Key PHC policy decisions, at all levels, must involve nursing and midwifery leaders for effective and informed decision-making.

Nurses and midwives require improved working environments and adequate financial and non-financial incentives, in order for them to be effectively retained and motivated, thus enhancing access to quality health care.

We recommend that:

- (1) PHC policy frameworks explicitly recognise and include nurses and midwives as critical policy-leaders in decision-making.
- (2) Legislation be implemented which recognises the full scope of practice of nurses and midwives in community-based care.
- (3) Educational institutions are strengthened through faculty development, curricular innovations, promotion of research and infrastructure establishment to produce qualified graduates to meet the health needs of their countries.
- (4) Health systems accord nurses and midwives with key positions that utilise their competencies in all aspects of PHC for achieving the health-related MDGs.
- (5) Employers, public and private, ensure that nurses and midwives are motivated by adequate financial and non financial incentives, and supported by safe and well-equipped working environments to enhance workforce productivity and retention.
- (6) Governments and development partners commit to mobilise and allocate sufficient resources to strengthen and upgrade nursing and midwifery education and practice; workforce deployment and development; and improved working conditions, as well as other incentives, for nurses, midwives and other health team members, to ensure better-performing PHC systems, thereby ensuring equitable access of PHC to all.
- (7) Donors allocate sufficient funds for successful implementation and evaluation of the Declaration.
- (8) International organisations including the World Health Organisation play a facilitative role and provide technical support in implementing necessary actions to support this Declaration.
- (9) A task force be created by the Global Health Workforce Alliance/or WHO to coordinate and support the implementation of activities to support this Declaration.

We pledge to disseminate, advocate and work towards fulfilment of these recommendations by working in partnership with healthcare organisations, communities, universities, governments, non-governmental organisations and the private sector at the regional, national and international levels to strengthen Primary Health Care and accelerate achieving the Millennium Development Goals.