



THE PHILADELPHIA CONCORD

Global Health Improves Lives, Reduces the Spread of Disease and Contributes to World Stability

**From the Global Health Summit, Philadelphia Pennsylvania, the birthplace of America
and the United States Public Health Service
June 5, 2005**

WE THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE GLOBAL HEALTH SUMMIT MEETING IN THE HISTORIC CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

RECOGNIZE THAT

The Institute of Medicine (IOM), part of the U.S. Academy of Science, has defined global health as referring to “health problems, issues, and concerns that transcend national boundaries, may be influenced by circumstances or experiences in other countries, and are best addressed by cooperative actions and solutions.”

Therefore, global health is the health of all populations -- of humanity at large. It is our shared responsibility as citizens of the world, neighbors to all. This is substantiated repeatedly, particularly during times of crisis, such as natural and humanitarian disasters like the recent flood in Haiti and the Tsunami affecting Southeast Asia.

In this current age of rapid travel, international trade, commerce, and the ease of global communication, it is clear that artificial borders and geographic distances cannot isolate the health and safety problems and concerns of people in one community from those in another. Thus, health is GLOBAL in nature.

Global health is of fundamental moral, practical, and strategic importance to the United States and all other nations, for peace, prosperity, and well-being.

Through private contributions, government assistance, and other forms of technical cooperation, significant improvements in health and development have occurred across the globe. These improvements include clean water supply and community environmental sanitation systems,

access to basic immunizations and medications, and developing educational processes and related activities which support national health systems in need or in crisis.

Working together nations of the world have demonstrated capacity for improving the health and well-being of millions of people, thus bringing the opportunity for social stability, prosperity and peace, and the strengthening of democracy.

WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE CHALLENGE TO

UNDERSTAND that this new century has brought about numerous challenges and opportunities in global health. Vaccines, antibiotics, clean and available water, proper environmental sanitation, antibiotics, and other breakthroughs in scientific and health research and technology are among the many contributions to improved health. However, current challenges include: new emerging diseases like the Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Avian Flu; increases in chronic diseases; and the unprecedented flows of people and goods throughout the world.

DEAL with the contributing factors such as poverty and health disparities which contribute to those numerous challenges to global public health.

REACT to the realities of Globalization which require greater collaboration and understanding among nations with respect to public health matters. Success in improving health status and prevention of new disease outbreaks require health workers and the general public to adopt a global view of health. We must think beyond our borders. What happens across the globe affects us, and what we do affects our neighbors across the globe.

DEVELOP a proactive global health agenda to meet these new challenges and opportunities, which means renewing the commitment to improve global health among:

- National governments
- Non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, and advocacy groups
- Public and private funders of health programs
- Multilateral organizations dedicated to health and environmental enhancement
- Health professional societies and associations
- General educational systems of all nations
- The media
- **And in particular the general public of the United States**

ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT

- Health as an integral component of international development
- Leadership coalitions and participation in global partnerships to address pressing disease and environmental challenges that are global in nature
- The conduct of biomedical research and health services systems research related to these global health issues, taking into consideration the cultural, ethnic,

religious values and principles of nations and applying the results by putting them into practice

- The consideration of global health topics at all levels of education and training from early childhood to the graduate studies level
- Health literacy or an understanding of health matters by all citizens, including the values of health promotion, and disease prevention
- Promotion of volunteering in global health activities by individuals and organizations
- The forging of international projects that encourage scientific collaboration on global health issues between investigators in all nations
- The reduction of health disparities among vulnerable populations, including women, children and the disadvantaged
- An ongoing dialogue among community leaders and their beneficiaries about the importance of global health
- Health system infrastructure enhancement, including addressing shortages of human resources and promoting greater access to needed health care
- The use of proven best practices, including lessons learned from other nations, as well as information-sharing about best-practices in community health
- Health diplomacy as a tool to bring nations together to improve global health

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[Organizations and individuals are invited and encouraged to add their signatures to the Philadelphia Concord. Contact PHS Foundation Executive Director Jerry Farrell for further information – 301-731-9080; gfarrell@coausphs.org]