

10 November 2006

I, Liisa Hyssälä, the Minister of Health and Social Services of Finland,

Recognizing the serious disease burden and significant economic impact that health care-associated infection places on patients and health systems throughout the world,

Considering that the majority of these infections are treatable and avoidable,

Appreciating the momentum that the Global Patient Safety Challenge programme of the WHO World Alliance for Patient Safety is bringing to reduce health care-associated infection at the global level,

Emphasizing that a unique opportunity now exists to reverse the incidence of health care-associated infection in Finland,

Resolve to work to reduce health care-associated infection through actions such as:

- Acknowledging the importance of health care-associated infection;
- Developing or enhancing ongoing campaigns at national or sub-national levels to promote and improve hand hygiene among health care providers;
- Making reliable information available on health care-associated infection at community and district levels to foster appropriate actions;
- Sharing experiences and, where appropriate, available surveillance data, with the WHO World Alliance for Patient Safety;
- Considering the use of WHO strategies and guidelines to tackle health care-associated infection, in particular in the areas of hand hygiene, blood safety, injection and immunization safety, clinical procedures safety and water, sanitation and waste management safety;

Resolve to work with health professionals and associations in this country:

To promote the highest standards of practice and behaviour to reduce the risks of health care-associated infection;



To foster and sustain collaboration with research institutions, training schools, educational centres, universities and health care settings of other WHO Member States to ensure full utilization of knowledge and experience in the field of health care-associated infection;

To encourage senior management support and role-modeling from key staff to promote the implementation of interventions to reduce health care-associated infection.

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Finland



Liisa Hyssälä
Minister of Health and Social Services