Guidelines for Health Care Professional Association constituency implementation of commitments to the United Nations Secretary General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health
PMNCH Forum: From Pledges to Action
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Achieving the objectives of the United Nations Secretary General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health (Global Strategy) will require strong health care professional collaboration and participation in defining and implementing policies, advocating for adequate resources and mechanisms to implement these strategies and monitoring and evaluating progress.

Health care professional associations have arisen to the challenge and committed to scaling up their efforts for women and children. With a commitment of US$55,718,000 over the next five years consisting partly of in kind contributions health care professional agencies seek to support to Ministries of Health, District governments, UN agencies and Bi-laterals in 25 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America in integrating reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health policies, developing frameworks for action across training institutions at different levels, strengthening human resources for health management and scaling up the implementation of key effective interventions. International and regional associations are also developing parallel programs focusing on strengthening associations to improve education, regulation, leadership, service delivery and monitoring.

Some 100 health care professionals meeting at the 2010 PMNCH Forum in Delhi India made the following recommendations to guide the implementation of the commitments made by the health care professional constituency to the Global Strategy.

International associations and the PMNCH should:

- Develop a knowledge resource that facilitates decision making and implementation of best practices by health care workers
- Compile best practices of health care professional engagement in developing curricula and regulation and systems of accreditation, advocacy, leadership initiatives, training, research, policy development etc…
- Develop distance learning courses to increase capacity building and educational opportunities in developing countries while reducing time and financial costs
- Build the capacity of national associations in their workplan development
- Build the capacity of health professionals to conduct research and publish findings through their associations.
- Support collaborative efforts at the regional level through pre-existing mechanisms. i.e. adding short multi-stakeholder sessions on MNCH related issues to subregional association meetings
- Communicate to national associations about the dichotomy between policies at country and global levels

National associations present should

- Ensure to inform their in country counterparts on the commitments made to the Global Strategy and on the content of the Global Strategy as well as define a mechanism for regular reporting after events and trainings
• Collaborate in country through cross-representation of associations in each other’s meetings and through joint efforts targeting
  o The creation of a culture of monitoring and evaluation that emphasizes the importance of accurate and reliable data
  o The use of ITC to bridge communication gaps between national, regional and international HCPAs, between health workers at different levels within a country and between health workers and service users
  o Continuous and effective training that includes principles of leadership, dignity and management
  o The development of incentives to improve health care professional performance both at the national and international level (i.e. awards) and through the use of media, TV and other means of raising consumer awareness
  o Adapting and adopting available global specific core competencies for the provision of MNCH services
  o The development of a culture of collaboration: removing the division between the different professional bodies
  o A focus on youth involvement in programmes
  o Raising profile of accountability and governance within the HCPAs