Statement by the HCPA constituency - PMNCH forum  
Presented by Dr. Andre Lalonde

I wish to extend my gratitude to the organizers for providing the health care professional constituency with the opportunity and platform to deliberate on how we can best join our efforts to improve the health of women and children.

I have been chosen today, to make this report back in the name of ICM, IPA, FIP and FIGO as well as all of the health care professional associations that have taken part in this PMNCH forum. I thank them for trusting me with this task and for their invaluable feedback which has shaped this statement.

Health care professional associations have risen 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 collaborate with Ministries of Health, local governments, UN agencies, NGOs and Bi-laterals in low resource countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America. The focus will be on policies that will ensure access to quality MNCH services, through developing programs for action across different training institutions at different levels, strengthening human resources for health management and scaling up the implementation of key effective interventions and improve education, regulation, leadership, service delivery and monitoring.

Acknowledging our shared principles of advocacy, action and accountability and working more closely together at international, regional and national levels, health care professional associations agree to:

- Scale up the quality and coverage of a limited number (10-15) of evidence based key interventions agreed upon by the PMNCH
- Work collaboratively at all levels to address key barriers and bottlenecks to access to quality care utilizing low cost, effective tools
- In collaboration with governments, communities (including youth) and stakeholders including the private sector, implement poverty reduction initiatives such as equitable access to free health services for women and children
- Strengthen health professionals through support, supervision, continuing education, practice audits, certification for competency based training, leadership, ethical practice
- Modify training curricula to include ethics, women's and children's rights and a respect for all without regard to race, gender, age, culture, social status, marital status, lifestyle
- Create a culture of monitoring and evaluation that emphasizes the importance of accurate and reliable data
- Build the organizational capacity of health care professional associations in collaboration with donors, governments and multilateral organizations to ensure sustained change
- Maximize evolving ICT to improve patient care and information, decrease isolation of health workers in remote areas and to facilitate data collection (clinical and non clinical)