

15th Conference of Heads of State and Government of countries which have the French language in common

Dakar (Senegal), 29 and 30 November, 2014

Resolution regarding the health of mothers, newborns and children

We, Heads of State and Government of countries which have the French language in common, assembled on 29 and 30 November, 2014 in Dakar, Senegal, on the occasion of the 15th Summit of La Francophonie,

State that the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is a fundamental feature of human rights, and that the health of women, newborns and children is an essential condition for reducing poverty and ensuring sustainable development;

Acknowledge that, despite progress made so far, the global community is unable to meet all its targets for the Millennium Development Goals, specifically in the areas of infant mortality and maternal health;

Acknowledge that malnutrition is responsible for 45% of deaths among children under five, that millions of children suffer from permanent mental and physical disabilities due to inadequate nutrition, and that, in pregnant women suffering from malnutrition, the risk of complications and death is higher, both for themselves and for their babies;

Express our deep concern about malnutrition and infant mortality rates within the countries of La Francophonie, in particular in the countries of West Africa. Moreover, acknowledge that 1.4 million children die each year in countries of La Francophonie before reaching the age of five, and that almost half of these deaths are due to causes stemming from malnutrition;

Acknowledge the importance of the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, launched in September 2010 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, of the reports of the Commission on Information and Accountability for the health of women and children, and of the United Nations' Commission on Life-saving Commodities for women and children, of the Scaling Up Nutrition movement (SUN) and of the *Zero Hunger* Challenge launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2012, and of the Muskoka Initiative, within the framework of the G8, regarding the health of mothers, newborns and children as key drivers of the global efforts to reduce the mortality rate among mothers and children;

Endorse the *Every Newborn* action plan of the WHO, Unicef and the global *A Promise Renewed* movement as a means to emphasize the importance of birth and the first 28 days of life for the survival of mothers and newborns, in order to improve health outcomes and economic benefits throughout life;

Welcome positively the Toronto Summit Declaration, *Every Woman, Every Child: Within Arm's Reach*, as a way to create a political dynamic promoting attention to the health of mothers, newborns and children as a priority for the global development program beyond 2015;

Acknowledge the need to intensify efforts to achieve the targets of the Millennium Development Goals in the field of health and nutrition;

We are committed to:

Continuing to establish funding priorities to reduce infant mortality rates and to improve maternal health and nutrition;

Working for the reproductive, neonatal, maternal and child health that remains a central priority within the framework of development beyond 2015;

Ensuring that the development issues beyond 2015 regarding the health of mothers, newborns and children are set in a robust accountability framework that includes measurable indicators, and is focused on the elimination of preventable deaths;

Stressing the importance of accountability as the cornerstone of development, for example by providing continued support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on Information and Accountability, as well as the importance of efforts to improve timely access to reliable and accurate health information, and the availability of this information. This issue should be a priority, as access is a crucial catalyst for greater accountability within national health systems, and should be included as part of a commitment to develop robust systems for compiling vital statistics and registering vital events;

Promoting wide access to full family planning services to enable mothers to exercise active control over the development of their family, and to ensure their health as well as that of their children;

Encouraging interventions throughout the continuum of care, from pre-pregnancy until the age of five, and, in particular, providing support for the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement and the Replenishment of the GAVI Alliance, which makes it possible to intensify country-level efforts;

Promoting the nutrition of women and children and supporting innovative partnerships, such as the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement and the Micronutrient Initiative.