



REGIONAL COMMITTEE

*Sixtieth session  
Thimphu, Bhutan  
31 August – 3 September 2007*

Provisional Agenda item 16.2

SEA/RC60/18 Add.

23 August 2007

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON SELECTED RESOLUTIONS/  
DECISIONS OF THE LAST THREE YEARS:  
PROMOTING PATIENT SAFETY IN HEALTH CARE**

The Jakarta Declaration on Patients for Patient Safety in Countries of the South-East Asia Region is included as an addendum to Agenda item 16.2. The Declaration calls for open and honest communication between patients and health-care professionals who must work in partnership to build a health care system in which 'no patient should suffer preventable harm'. It was endorsed at a regional workshop held in Jakarta, 17-19 July 2007, which brought patients, consumer-advocates, health-care professionals, policy-makers and representatives of nongovernmental organizations, professional associations and medical councils from Member countries of the Region together to discuss the issue through an open dialogue.



## **Jakarta Declaration on Patients for Patient Safety in Countries of the South-East Asia Region**

We, the patients, consumer advocates, health-care professionals, policy-makers and representatives of nongovernmental organizations, professional associations and regulatory councils having reflected on the issue of patient safety in the regional workshop on “Patients for Patient Safety”, 17-19 July 2007, in Jakarta, Indonesia,

Referring to the Regional Committee resolution SEA/RC59/R3 on Promoting Patient Safety in Health Care, adopted at the fifty-ninth session of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia Region, which notes “with concern the high human and financial toll of adverse events” and the vicious cycle of adverse events, law-suits, and the practice of defensive medicine which contributes to the rising cost of health care, and urges Member States to “engage patients, consumer associations, health-care workers, and professional associations, hospital associations, health-care accreditation bodies and policy-makers, in building safer health care systems and creating a culture of safety within the health care institutions”,

Considering the recommendations made at the first Regional Workshop on Patient Safety, 12-14 July 2006, New Delhi, India,

Inspired by the WHO World Alliance for Patient Safety, Patients for Patient Safety London Declaration (March 2006),

We,

1. Declare that no patient should suffer preventable harm;
2. Agree that patients are at the centre of all patient safety efforts;
3. Acknowledge that fear of blame and punishment should not deter open and honest communication between patients and health-care providers;
4. Recognize that we must work in partnership in order to achieve the major behavioural and system changes that are required to address patient safety in our Region;
5. Believe that:
  - transparency, accountability and the human touch are paramount to a safe health care system;
  - mutual trust and respect between health-care professionals and patients are fundamental;
  - patients and their carers should know why a treatment is given and be informed of all risks, big or small, so that they can participate in decisions related to their care, and
  - patients should have access to their medical records;

6. Recognize that when harm does occur:
  - there should be a system in place whereby the event can be reported and investigated with due respect to confidentiality;
  - patients and their families should be fully informed and supported;
  - providers involved in unintentional harm should also receive support;
  - corrective actions should be taken to prevent future harm and lessons learnt should be shared widely, and
  - there should be a mechanism to compensate the patients and their families fairly;
7. Commit to:
  - consumer empowerment through frank and candid education;
  - partnering with the media to encourage responsible reporting and to seize opportunities to educate the public;
  - active consumer participation in adverse event reporting;
  - two-way communication between patients and health-care providers that encourages questioning;
  - meaningful patient representation on patient safety committees and forums;
8. Pledge to achieve through sustained efforts the following goals:
  - functioning patient safety systems at every health-care facility, both public and private, starting with the establishment of a patient safety committee and of an adverse event reporting and response system;
  - adherence to guidelines that are evidence-based and ethical, and avoidance of irrational treatments such as unnecessary medicines, investigations and surgical procedures;
  - continuing medical education for health-care professionals;
  - integrating patient safety concepts into pre- and in-service training of allied health-care professionals;
  - rational load of patients at each health-care facility;
  - adequate resources devoted to patient safety;
  - motivated and competent health-care professionals, and
  - satisfied patients and providers.