WWPWFM Wonca Working Party on Women and Family Medicine



THE HAMILTON EQUITY RECOMMENDATIONS THE HER STATEMENT

24th AUGUST 2006

The Wonca Working Party on Women and Family Medicine (WWPWFM) was charged with the responsibility for developing recommendations on how to achieve and maintain gender equity within the World Organisation of Family Doctors (Wonca). Twenty–five leading women from 16 different countries and all six Wonca regions met in August 2006 at McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada.

The WWPWFM makes the following statement:

- 1. Cognizant of the fundamental aspiration of all individuals, families, communities and peoples to achieve and maintain the highest quality of life;
- 2. Recognizing the centrality of improved and optimal health to the achievement of the highest quality of life;
- 3. Recalling the important provisions of the charters, declarations and instruments of the United Nations, WHO, UNDP and other international organizations regarding human rights, equity, development, health and human dignity;
- 4. Convinced of the centrality of women's and girls' status as a determinant of the health of women and children, and of the families and communities of which they are part, throughout the world;
- 5. Recognizing that the elimination of gender inequality (as well as other violations of universal human rights) is an important prerequisite for development, including the improvement and achievement of optimal health;
- 6. Affirming that the improvement and achievement of optimal health is dependent on high standards and levels of health care provision, organization, teaching and research;
- 7. Convinced that general practice/family medicine is the cornerstone of the achievement of high standards and levels of health care provision, organization, teaching and research throughout the world;
- 8. Noting the global benefit of organization and knowledge exchange between general practice/family medicine organizations and practitioners, and between general practice/family medicine and other organizations concerned with health and medical care;

The WWPWFM urges the general practice/family medicine organizations of the world that are constituted as the World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians (Wonca) to adopt the following fundamental recommendations regarding gender equity:

- 1. Enshrine the principle of gender equity within Wonca governance by amending the Wonca Bylaws and Regulations, as proposed by the WWPWFM.
- 2. Implement gender equity in all activities of Wonca, in particular the scientific programs of its triennial, regional, and rural meetings.
- 3. Promulgate the pivotal role of gender as a key determinant of health.

4. Promote the equitable inclusion and advancement of women general practitioners/family physicians in Wonca.

Signed in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada 24th August 2006

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