

Conference Statement of Commitment to Action

PEOPLE THAT DELIVER: MEETING TOMORROW'S HEALTH CHALLENGES THROUGH WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE IN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

**Geneva, Switzerland
June 29, 2011**

We, the participants of the Global Positioning and Harmonization Conference of the *People that Deliver Initiative*, held in Geneva Switzerland on 28-29 June 2011, having **reviewed the available evidence** concerning the strengths, weaknesses, challenges and opportunities facing supply chains and the supply chain workforce in the health systems of lower and middle-income countries, **recognize that:**

- Efficient and effective health supply chain performance is essential for ensuring access to health supplies, and contributes to attaining positive health outcomes and meeting health goals, including the Millennium Development Goals for health;
- Health supply chains are limited in their ability to meet existing demands, jeopardising the health of individuals, the health goals of countries, and the major investments in health supplies made by governments and partners;
- The burden on health supply chains have increased significantly and will continue to increase in the near future due to the introduction of costly and complex new health products, changing disease profiles, and new efforts to meet health goals;
- Limitations on health supply chain performance stem, in part, from inadequate competencies in the health workforce for supply chain management as well as the assignment of supply chain roles to health workers whose primary responsibilities are in other health areas; and
- The health supply chain workforce faces a wide array of human resource-related challenges in relevant education and training, relevant technical and managerial competency, empowerment, continuing professional development opportunities, incentives for job performance, and career advancement opportunities.

A number of international, regional and national institutions, including country governments and partners, have agreed to work together, under the *People that Deliver Initiative*, to identify ways to support countries in strengthening human resources for supply chain management, in line with their organizational responsibilities and available resources.

We pledge to support the achievement of the shared goal of the *People that Deliver Initiative*, which is *for countries to improve health outcomes by developing sustainable excellence in the health workforce for managing supply chains and for overcoming existing and emerging health supply challenges*. Sustainable workforce excellence is achieved when national institutions are able to develop, recruit, and retain supply chain personnel who ably respond to the supply needs at all levels of the health system.

To achieve this goal, **we the participants at the *People that Deliver Conference* commit to take the following steps**, as appropriate given the respective mandates, capacities and resources of our individual institutions:

- ✓ **Participate** in a collaborative effort that seeks to coordinate and align partners in working towards sustainable excellence in the health workforce for managing supply chains;

- ✓ **Raise** the awareness of governments and the international community, especially among high-level policy-makers, that supply chain management is a key strategic function of health systems, essential for meeting health goals, and that developing a strong and sustainable supply chain workforce should be a national priority, a global concern, and a shared responsibility;
- ✓ **Build** understanding that supply chain management in health systems is highly complex and must satisfy specific regulations and requirements for health products, necessitating strong technical and managerial capacity for supply chain management within the health sector;
- ✓ **Improve** the availability of, demand for, and retention of highly competent health supply chain workers, who ably respond to supply needs at all levels of the health system;
- ✓ **Leverage** opportunities offered by human resource policies, systems and efforts at the national, regional and global levels to further this cause;
- ✓ **Encourage** the development of global guidelines, tools, models and other resources that are relevant to all levels of the health system and adaptable to different country contexts, and which are based on existing evidence, previous work and agreement amongst Initiative partners;
- ✓ **Disseminate** these global resources to partners and countries to support progress in developing workforce excellence in health supply chain management;
- ✓ **Identify** priority actions with clear added value that will be undertaken by partner institutions, based on respective comparative advantages, to support countries, according to their needs and priorities, as they strive to attain workforce excellence in health supply chain management; and
- ✓ **Monitor and evaluate** progress to demonstrate the impact and value of interventions promoted by the Initiative, as well as of the Initiative itself.

In conclusion, we commit to work in pursuit of the Initiative goal in a harmonised and coordinated manner at the global, regional and country levels, and to align our plans and activities to locally-relevant needs and priorities.