THE KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION
ON PRIMARY HEALTH CARE 2008
National Conference on Primary Health Care
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 14-16 April 2008

We, the representatives from various agencies in Malaysia, have gathered at the National Conference on Primary Health Care in Kuala Lumpur on 14th to 16th April 2008, to take stock of the achievements and deliberate on the strategic actions needed to meet the challenges of strengthening Primary Health Care in the country.

The Conference, upon:


- **Responding to** Malaysia's Vision 2020, Vision for Health and social development policies;

- **Reaffirming** that health is the fundamental right of every human being without distinction as to age, gender, ethnicity, religion, political belief, economic or social conditions; and health is the combined responsibility of the government, related agencies and citizens;

- **Recognizing** that Primary Health Care is the key to effective, efficient, and equitable health service systems, resulting in universal access low cost services and better health outcomes;

- **Appreciating** the passion and commitment of policy makers, implementers and communities, as well as intersectoral actions, in the Primary Health Care delivery systems;

- **Taking note** of the direction given in the opening and key note addresses; the gaps, challenges and issues that were discussed in the conference plenaries, symposia and workshops.

Therefore, commits to address the following key areas:

1. **POLICIES**

- **Continue to uphold** the values and principles of Primary Health Care to guide the policies and governance of health systems for all;

- **Promote and advocate** the development of public policies that support health initiatives based on scientific evidence;
• **Strengthen** the design and implementation of health and development policies by incorporating environmental and social determinants such as socio-economic status, culture, ethnicity, gender, age, disability;

• **Initiate and support** health reforms to address current issues, new and emerging challenges;

• **Ensure** the Primary Health Care delivery systems are universal, comprehensive, accessible equitable and acceptable.

2. **INTERSECTORAL PARTNERSHIPS**

• **Strive towards** a borderless and seamless health care between the public and private sectors at all levels of care;

• **Strengthen** the collaboration between agencies and institutions in addressing disease prevention and control; and health-related social determinants such as those that aim at improving access to safe water, healthy food, adequate shelter, education, decent work, healthy environment, infrastructure, information and communication technology and others.

3. **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT**

• **Further emphasise** on health promotion and disease prevention with focus on wellness through individual, family and community empowerment;

• **Enable** participation of individuals, families, communities and civil societies in the planning and implementation of health programmes and services.

4. **HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**

• **Ensure** adequate, appropriate and competent human resources through capacity building to assure continuity and quality of care.

5. **SERVICES AND STANDARDS**

• **Continuously** improve the quality of Primary Health Care services through the development of standards and continuing professional development towards maintaining high level of professionalism.

6. **HEALTH CARE FINANCING**

• **Ensure** adequate financing for the sustainability of Primary Health Care services and working towards universal financial coverage that supports equitable access and system wide efficiency.

7. **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**
• **Enhance** research capacity and capability in Primary Health Care to generate and use evidence to support formulation and evaluation of health and social programmes.

8. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

• **Upscale** the use of information and communication technology in programme development and implementation at all levels.

9. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

• **Strengthen** collaboration and linkages with other agencies within and outside the region to share best practices and lessons learnt in Primary Health Care.

The Conference calls upon all stakeholders to translate these recommendations into actions to strengthen Primary Health Care in Malaysia.