In the Name of Allah, the Most Merciful the Most Beneficent

Declaration of Dubai
On
Public Health in the Arab World

Dubai, 25 Jumada'1, 1434 H – 6 April, 2013
United Arab Emirates
Declaration of Dubai on Public Health in the Arab World

It is in the city of Dubai, United Arab Emirates and on Saturday, 25th Jumada I, 1434 H corresponding to 6th April 2013, the First Arab World Conference on Public Health was held. Based on the Deliberations and recommendations of the conference, the following recommendations were adopted by the delegates and participants.

Realizing that:

- Health is a vital investment, and it is a right of every citizen & this right is not a burden but it is an investment in the human capital leading to promotion of economic and social development.
- Promotion and protection of health and prolonging life are central priorities of global, regional and national policies that every government should develop to meet their population's health needs.
- Public health is a key component of health system together with healthcare. It is a “best buy” and should receive priority for public funds. The more countries spend wisely on public health, the less likely will be the occurrence of preventable illnesses and impaired health.
- Functional and efficient public health minimizes healthcare expenditures, particularly through reducing communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- Good health improves productivity, so investment in health promotion and disease prevention does not only alleviate poverty but also generates wealth.
- Nationwide public health is essential for achieving equity in health and social justice.

Having noted, the need to:

- Move public health agenda forward, strengthen the public health infrastructure, build capacities and promote the leading role of public health to improve population's health.
- Upgrade public health practice, education, training and research in the Arab countries to address the current challenges and bridge the gap as well as maximize opportunities in the region.
- Advocate for the creation of a structure complimentary to healthcare to support public health.
- Institute strong and effective partnership with Global Public Health Associations, international credible public health institutes and schools, World Health Organization’s Headquarter and Regional offices, and other renowned institutions and organizations in Public Health.

Recalling and recognizing the following declarations, statements and resolutions:

2. Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 21 October, 2011)
5. Doha Declaration on the TRIPS agreement and public health (November, 2001)

World Health Assembly Resolutions:
1. WHA 65.8 – (May 2012). Outcome of the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health.
3. WHA 64.6 (May 2012) – Health Workforce strengthening.
4. WHA 64.8 (May 2011) – Strengthening National Policy Dialogue to build more robust health policies, strategies and more plan.
5. WHA 64.9 (May 2011). Sustainable health financing structure and universal coverage.
6. WHA 64.10 (May 2011). Strengthening national health emergency and disaster management capacities and the resilience of health systems.
7. WHA 64.24 (May 2011). Drinking water, sanitation and health.
8. WHA 63.15 (May 2010) – Monitoring of the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals.
10. WHA 63.25 (May 2010). Improvement of health through safe and environmentally sound waste management.
11. WHA 63.27 (May, 2010). Strengthening the capacity of governments to constructively engage the private sector in providing essential healthcare services.

**World Health Organization Reports:**

**Regional Committee Resolutions**


GCC Declarations and Statements


2. Jeddah Declaration on Adolescent and Youth Health, “Promoting Community Participation in Adolescent and Youth Health” (Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 16-18 Jumada I, 1433 H / 8-10 April, 2012).


4. Kuwait Initiative for promotion of occupational health in the cooperation Council States. (Kuwait, 5 Jumada 1, 1432 H / 7 April, 2011).


6. Dubai Declaration on Diabetes and Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases in the Middle East and North Africa (MEENA) Region (United Arab Emirate, 6-7 Muharram, 1432 H/12-13 December, 2010).


8. Jeddah Declaration on Care of Diabetic Patients “Diabetes... It’s Time To Act” (Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 27 Safar 1431 H – 11 February, 2010 G).


10. Al-Manama Declaration on Economics of Cardiovascular Diseases (Al-Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, 25th Rabi II, 1430 H – 21st April, 2009 G).

Based on these, the participants decided to have recommendations leading to adopt “Declaration of Dubai on Public Health in the Arab World” as an international and regional declaration which emphasizes the importance of promotion of public health in the region in general and the Arab World in particular.

The Declaration

Calls upon the countries to:

1- Encourage establishment of a national body/committee for public health in all Arab countries consequently leading to the establishment of an Arab public health association in the future.

2- Encourage Public Health education and training, leading to higher degrees in Public Health and building their capacity and translating knowledge of public health into actions.

3- Work towards establishing governmental mechanisms for dialogues on public health issues and building constructive partnership with related bodies.

4- Give due attention to social determinants of health and its importance in public health.

5- Ensure equitable access to effective health systems including public health services.

6- Enhance productive communication and collaboration with health professionals from other fields and specialties.

7- Empower people and community to take responsibility of their own health and be partners to move the public health agenda forward.
8. Encourage and sustain the national public health leadership development programs in the Arab countries.

9. Develop specific public health policies, prioritize and implement them.

10. Develop public health laws and regulations.

Approved by: 
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Dated: 12/4/2013