The Health Worker Migration Global Policy Advisory Council

We are in the midst of a global shortage of health workers, a crisis which impedes access to basic health services around the world. In many poor developing nations, the health workforce crisis is exacerbated by the migration of health practitioners to developed nations, which are increasingly reliant on foreign workers to provide access to health services for their own population. Medical advances and older populations in industrialized nations have led to serious health workforce shortages that are projected to last for decades to come.

The international migration of health workers will continue to serve to meet part of this increased demand; yet, we must search for ways to mitigate its negative effects on countries that need health workers the most. There are promising practices that point to more ethical and equitable ways to address health worker migration, especially to ameliorate its negative effects on source nations. Among these innovations are adoption of voluntary ethical codes, bilateral arrangements between source and destination nations where training, technical assistance, development assistance and circular and temporary migration allow a return flow of resources to sending nations with low health worker density.

The issue of health worker migration requires international solutions. The Health Worker Migration Global Policy Advisory Council (the Council) provides a unique, high-level forum for dialogue between policy makers from both source and destination countries about solutions that balance the right for individuals to emigrate in search of a better life and the right to health in source countries hard-hit by out-migration. The Council has put forward leading analysis and recommendations for policy solutions and has mobilized global action to more effectively manage health worker migration to benefit all.

The Council was reconstituted in 2011 with the primary mandate of assessing the implementation of the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel in addition to promoting innovative solutions to addressing the challenges associated with health worker migration. The Council will also present the Health Worker Migration Innovations Award, support bilateral agreements and explore circular migration initiatives.
RECONSTITUTED COUNCIL
As of December 2011

Sir George Alleyne
University of the West Indies,
Pan American Health
Organization/WHO, USA

Dr. Elsheikh Badr
President, Academy of Health Sciences
Federal Ministry of Health, Sudan

Dr. David Bowen
U.S. Senate Committee Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions (HELP), USA

Ms. Peggy Clark
Vice President, Policy Programs
Executive Director, Aspen Global Health
and Development, USA

Lord Nigel Crisp
Former Chief Executive, NHS and Former
Permanent Secretary, Department of
Health, UK

Senator Tom Daschle (Co-Chair)
DLA Piper, USA
Former United States Senate Majority Leader
(D-SD)

Dr. Nils Daulaire
Director, Office of Global Affairs, Health
and Human Services, USA

Dr. Paul Fife
(invited)
Director for Global Health, Education and
Research, Norwegian Agency for
Development Corporation

Dr. Percy Mahlati
Executive Director of the African Institute
of Health and Leadership Development,
South Africa

Dr. Davide Mosca
Director, Migration Health Division,
International Organization for Migration,
Switzerland

Dr. Francis Omaswa (Co-Chair)
African Centre for Global Health and Social
Transformation (ACHEST), Uganda

Hon. Chairperson Patricia Santo Tomas
Chair, Development Bank of the
Philippines and Former Secretary,
Department of Labor and Employment,
Philippines

Dr. Mubashar Sheikh
(invited)
Global Health Workforce Alliance
World Health Organization, Switzerland

Dr. Viroj Tangcharoensathien
(invited)
Director, International Health Policy
Programme (IHPP) Ministry of Health,
Thailand

Hon. Professor Sheila Dinotshe Tlou
Director, UNAIDS Regional Support
Team, Eastern and Southern Africa
Former Minister of Health, Botswana

Dr. Wim Van Lerberghe
Director, Department for Health System
Governance and Service Delivery, WHO,
Switzerland