

Conference Statement of Commitment to Action

UN City, Copenhagen, Denmark - 29-30 October 2014

We, the participants of the second Global Conference of the *People that Deliver* Initiative, held in Copenhagen on October 29th and 30th, 2014:

- **Having reviewed and discussed the current status, strengths, weaknesses, challenges and opportunities facing the supply chain workforce in the health systems of lower and middle-income countries.**
- **Having been actively engaged in innovative actions to improve the supply chain workforce since the first Global Conference of the *People that Deliver* Initiative, held in Geneva Switzerland on June 28th and 29th, 2011 at WHO Headquarters.**
- **Having notably achieved:**
 - the inclusion of systematic human resources for health supply chain components into the Interagency Supply Chain Working Group Position Paper, GAVI Immunisation Supply Chain Strategy, and UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children briefs on Promising Practices in Supply Chain Management;
 - a suitable approach for assessment and planning regarding human resources in health supply chains, which has been implemented in more than 15 countries;
 - the publication of various technical and advocacy tools and resources for global and country-based application;
 - an increase in the availability of health supply chain and pre-service education; and
 - increased use of learning and professional training opportunities.
- **Are concerned that:**
 - health supply chains are limited in their ability to meet existing and future demands, jeopardising the health of individuals and the health goals of countries, as revealed by the recent Ebola outbreaks;
 - the burden on health supply chains has increased significantly and will continue to increase due to increasing volumes of supplies, the introduction of new health products, changing disease profiles, and efforts to achieve Universal Access to Health; and
 - country governments and partners have not made sufficient investments to achieve a sustained, competent health supply chain workforce.
- **Are strengthened by:**
 - the new dynamics stemming from improved international, regional and national cooperation between country governments and partners, agreeing to work together under the *People that Deliver* Initiative, to support countries in reinforcing human

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- resources for supply chain management, in line with their organizational responsibilities and available resources;
 - the development of the global Interagency Supply Chain Working Group, where international donors are coming together to improve the coordination of country-based activities directed at health supply chains; and
 - the increasing dialogue among health supply chain professionals and logisticians through international platforms and through country-based activities and networks.
- **Highlight that:**
- well-performing supply chains are essential for ensuring access to health supplies and meeting the goal of universal health coverage;
 - governments need to make appropriate policy changes to support the institutionalization of competent supply chain managers as a key component of human resources for health;
 - specific country-based action should be the main emphasis of the next phase of the *People that Deliver* Initiative with all donors, implementing partners and country governments considering systemic and competency-based approaches to human resources in health supply chain activities;
 - the professional development of the supply chain workforce must lead to sustainable and country-led systems;
 - these approaches must be appropriately funded by national governments, other national sources, and development partners; and
 - the health supply chain workforce must be managed within local contexts, with the following common principles:
 - engaged stakeholders and supply chain leaders need to be evident in both policy and technical areas related to national health supply chains,
 - policies and plans need to be in place to support planning of workforce needs and sustainable approaches to workforce development,
 - needs based approaches should be considered for workforce development, addressing pre-service and continuing professional development,
 - worker performance must be monitored and continuously improved, and
 - professionalization of supply chain cadres is required to meet the end-to-end demands of the health system and the needs of patients.
- **Pledge to** support the achievement of the shared aim 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.*

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To achieve this aim, **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 global and/or national collaborative efforts that seek to coordinate and align partners in working towards sustainable excellence in the health workforce for managing supply chains;

Raise the awareness of national governments, 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 greater recognition that supply chain management in health systems is highly complex and must satisfy specific regulations and requirements for health supplies, 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;

Urge greater involvement and interaction from countries in the Americas, Asia and Africa to share lessons and learn from other countries experiences;

Encourage the development of new best practices, guidelines, tools, models, evaluations 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 global resources, new knowledge and technical input to partners, countries and actors at all levels of the supply chain 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 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.

The 2nd PtD Global Conference had 160 participants from 20 countries representing the following constituencies: country governments, international agencies, academic institutions, implementing partners, non-governmental organizations, private companies.