

# **Tokyo Declaration**

## **“No One Left Behind”**

*Utilizing the MCH Handbook to achieve “No Woman, Child, Family, Society Left Behind”*

Leaders for a New Development Era from 38 countries and areas from all over the world, meeting at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Maternal and Child Health Handbook in Tokyo from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2016, have gathered at a critical and strategic moment in the initiative to recognize the MCH Handbook as a new global standard tool to promise essential and effective health services and achieve “No Woman, Child, Family, Society Left Behind”.

“No One Left Behind” is an ethical imperative under the new development agenda in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. We are required to make harmonized efforts to achieve goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity by 2030. We also recognize and applaud the fact that “promoting resilient health systems for quality of life” has been identified as one of the three pillars in the Nairobi Declaration, adopted at the TICAD VI Summit in August 2016.

The MCH Handbook is a comprehensive tool, designed to be kept by the family, that may contain on- and off-line health records and information on pregnancy, delivery and child health. It was first established in Japan in 1948. Nearly 70 years since its commencement, 39 countries and areas over the world have developed and use it as a unique and essential measure to address the need to provide a continuum of care for maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health. This unique endeavor accommodates a people-centered approach, aligning it with the Human Security Agenda, which the Government of Japan strongly committed itself to in this conference as well as at other important conferences such as the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in May 2016.

The conference has provided an opportunity, following the Yaounde Declaration adopted by the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the MCH Handbook, held in Cameroon in September 2015, to reflect on what has been learned about effective development and implementation; to re-examine the values and effects of the use of the MCH handbook; and to identify the directions and strategies required to promote Universal Health Coverage in the 21st century.

Finally, all the participants of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the MCH Handbook hereby conclude and recommend that:

1. The MCH Handbook is a global standard tool to improve maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health to accelerate achieving Universal Health Coverage under the progressive agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. The MCH Handbook strengthens health systems at all levels, from the household through

community to the highest national level, including public, NGO and private sectors.

3. The MCH Handbook promotes Continuum of Care through the life-course, especially during the first important 1,000 days of a child's life, through effective and efficient service integration and program coordination.
4. The MCH Handbook enhances health information and data sharing between health professionals and parents, and among family and kinship members, to ensure seamless health services and reciprocal communication.
5. The MCH Handbook is a symbolic instrument, which can enhance bonding between parents and their children, as well as promote a global citizen's movement towards social cohesion and equity.
6. The digitization of the MCH Handbook opens up limitless innovations to strengthen maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health through technological advancement and market opportunities.
7. The MCH Handbook should be developed in partnership with its end-users and related stakeholders.
8. The MCH Handbook promotes social inclusion of the poor and the marginalized, including people with disabilities, refugees, migrants and ethnic minorities.
9. The MCH Handbook should meet the emerging demands from those with specific needs, such as low-birth weight babies, children with development disorders, and those affected by public health emergencies and disasters.
10. The sustainability of the MCH Handbook program demands country ownership with political commitment, financial investment and technological support from both governments and development partners under mutual and regional cooperation and monolithic solidarity. This is high time to advocate more commitment from global partners, UN agencies, International Banks and other stakeholders in order to consolidate the use of the MCH Handbook as a global standard tool and promote further country implementation.
11. The MCH Handbook plays pivotal roles, and has an enormous potential to empower people to respond to wider and complicated issues in our society today to ensure a healthy, happy and prosperous world in the future.

The Tokyo Declaration offers a vision and focus for the innovative, equitable and sustainable development of maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health in the SDGs era. It reflects the firm commitment of participants in the conference to draw upon the widest possible range of resources to promote the MCH Handbook for our world and for future generations.

We are one, bound with the ideals of the MCH Handbook, and committed to ensuring that in future *“No Woman, Child, Family, or Society Will Be Left Behind”*.

Tokyo, Japan

25<sup>th</sup> November 2016