



Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies

Berlin Declaration on Ebola

World Health Summit 2014, Berlin October 19 to 22, 2014

We, the organizers of the World Health Summit (WHS), the “M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies”, the partners and the participants of the WHS from governments, industries, civil society, governmental and non-governmental organizations, express our deepest concern about the unprecedented spread of Ebola in parts of West Africa. We are deeply saddened by the loss of thousands of lives and the suffering the disease is inflicting. We note with regret that there appears to be no standard cure against the Ebola virus to date. The United Nations Security Council has determined that the unprecedented extent of the Ebola outbreak in Africa constitutes a threat to international peace and security. It is our common understanding that the current Ebola epidemic has the potential to turn into one of the most serious public health threats in the 21st century.

As members of the international health community we recognize our collective responsibility to mobilize our efforts to deliver assistance to the affected communities. We shall undertake joint efforts to contain the disease and to prevent it from spreading to other regions including to those outside West Africa. The Ebola epidemic shall not develop into a pandemic.

The participants of the World Health Summit are convinced that in the wake of the current Ebola outbreak, the international community needs a new approach to combat similar threats to health in the future, bearing in mind the increasing mobility of today’s world. In the future we must ensure that diseases as infectious and deadly as Ebola will remain on the agenda of the international health community. They deserve our permanent attention and a resolute and coordinated response.

We commend all the local and international health workers and volunteers for their courageous efforts. We will match this selfless commitment by providing relief through financial and material support and through expertise. For our contribution to be effective, we always have to make sure that we take into account the individual requirements of the countries affected. In the short term, our aim should be to meet the most urgent needs. Ultimately, however, we must make ourselves part of a long-term effort to assist the affected region in rebuilding its health infrastructure.

Additional information:

The M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies is a collaborative network of academic institutions of educational and research excellence. It features 17 members from 13 different countries and provides the academic foundation of the World Health Summit since 2009. With its strong commitment to improving global health, the M8 Alliance cooperates with political and economic decision makers to develop science-based solutions to health challenges worldwide. (www.worldhealthsummit.org; www.worldhealthsummit.org/m8-alliance.html)