

THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.  
**WMA COUNCIL RESOLUTION**  
**ON**  
**INDEPENDENCE OF MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Adopted by the 189<sup>th</sup> Council Session, Montevideo, Uruguay, October 2011

National medical associations are established to act as representatives of their physicians, and to negotiate on their behalf, sometimes as a trade union or regulatory body but also as a professional association, representing the expertise of medical doctors in relation to matters of public health and wellbeing.

They represent the views of the medical profession, including attempting to ensure the practice of ethical medicine, the provision of good quality medical care, and the adherence to high standards by all practitioners.

These associations may also campaign or advocate on behalf of their members, often in the field of public health. Such advocacy is not always welcomed by governments who may consider the advocacy to have oppositional politics attached, when in reality it is based upon an understanding of the medical evidence and the needs of patients and populations.

The WMA is aware that because of those advocacy efforts some governments attempt to silence the medical association by placing its own nominated representatives into positions of authority, to subvert the message into one they are better able to tolerate.

The WMA denounces such action and demands that no government interferes with the independent functioning of national medical associations. It encourages governments to understand better the reasons behind the work of their national medical association, to consider the medical evidence and to work with physicians to improve the health and well being of their populations.

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**Signed by WMA Council members, Officers and Officials**

Dr. Wonchat Subhachaturas, WMA President (Thailand)

Dr. Mukesh Haikerwal, WMA Chair of Council (Australia)

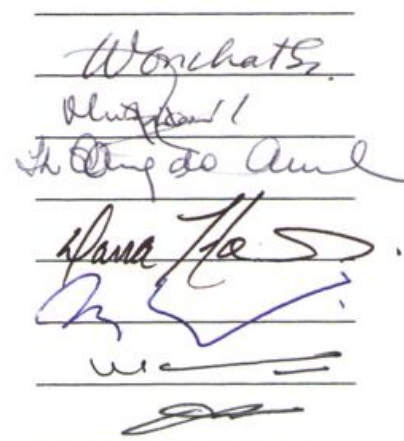
Dr. José Luiz Gomes do Amaral, WMA President-Elect (Brazil)

Dr. Dana Hanson, WMA Immediate Past President (Canada)

Dr. Masami Ishii, WMA Vice Chair of Council (Japan)

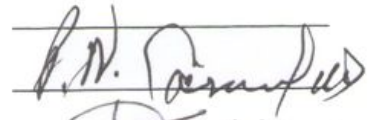
Dr. Vinay Aggarwal (India)

Dr. Florentino Cardoso (Brazil)

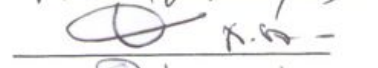


The image shows seven handwritten signatures, each written on a horizontal line. From top to bottom, the signatures are: 1. Wonchat S. (Thailand), 2. Mukesh Haikerwal (Australia), 3. José Luiz Gomes do Amaral (Brazil), 4. Dana Hanson (Canada), 5. Masami Ishii (Japan), 6. Vinay Aggarwal (India), and 7. Florentino Cardoso (Brazil).

Dr. Peter W. Carmel (United States)



Dr. Xavier Deau (France)



Dr. Roberto Luiz d'Avila (Brazil)



Dr. Yoram Blachar (Israel)



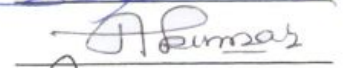
Dr. Torunn Janbu, WMA Chair of Medical Ethics Committee (Norway)



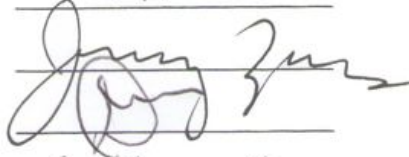
Prof. A. C. Nieuwenhuijzen Kruseman (Netherlands)



Dr. Ajay Kumar (India)

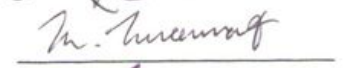


Dr. Jeremy A. Lazarus (United States)

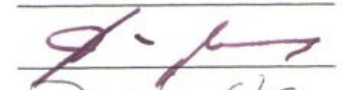


Dr. Mphata Norman Mabasa (South Africa)

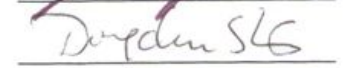
Sir Michael Marmot, WMA Chair of Socio-Medical Affairs Committee (United Kingdom)



Dr. med. Frank-Ulrich Montgomery, WMA Treasurer (Germany)



Dr. Dongchun Shin (Republic of Korea)



Dr. Robert Ouellet (Canada)



Dr. Ramin Parsa-Parsi (Germany)



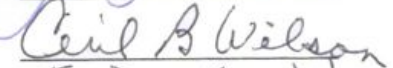
Dr. Alarico Rodriguez de León (Uruguay)



Dr. Jón G. Snædal (Iceland)



Dr. Cecil B. Wilson (United States)



Dr. Yoshitake Yokokura (Japan)



Dr. Otmar Kloiber, WMA Secretary General

