



## **Policy Framework Statement for Regional and Global Partnerships**

**January 23, 2008**

The mission of the Regional and Global Collaboration Implementation Group of the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention is to engage regional and global partners to mobilize resources in heart disease and stroke prevention and treatment. As means of carrying out this mission and in working to fulfill recommendation number 17 of *A Public Health Action Plan to Prevent Heart Disease and Stroke*, this Policy Framework Statement has been developed and adopted by the National Forum. The Statement provides recommendations to the National Forum and its members to guide US policies that promote cardiovascular health on a regional and global basis.

### **Recommendations for US Policies to Promote Global Cardiovascular Health**

For purposes of this Statement, cardiovascular health is defined as a combination of favorable health habits and conditions that protects against development of cardiovascular diseases.

#### **I. Introduction**

Cardiovascular disease and stroke have reached epidemic proportions worldwide. A global partnership inclusive of US institutions will be essential to reduce this global epidemic. *A Public Health Action Plan to Prevent Heart Disease and Stroke* developed by the CDC and partner organizations, considers regional and global collaboration as one of its key focus areas.

Coronary heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases have their origins in multiple etiological factors, many of which are linked to cultural, social, and economic conditions. Health system and public health capacities differ between countries, and a sharing of knowledge and experience between countries could support effective programs both in the US and abroad to reduce the burden from these diseases.

A US position on global cardiovascular health should fit within the following CDC Global Health<sup>i</sup> goals:

**Goal. Global Health Promotion**--CDC's Global Health Promotion Goal recognizes the critical role CDC plays in sharing knowledge, tools and other resources with people and partners to promote health and prevent disease around the world. CDC addresses critical global public health challenges through working with a diverse set of partners to support the development and implementation of culturally-appropriate public health interventions. Through our health promotion activities, CDC will contribute to reductions in global morbidity and mortality.

**Goal. Global Health Diplomacy--** *CDC's Global Health Diplomacy Goal recognizes the importance benefits that accrue to both the United States and the world through investments in public health capacity development and the creation of partnerships with the developing world. Through our health diplomacy activities, CDC and the United States Government will be a trusted and effective resource for health development and health protection around the globe.*

US institutions should follow guidelines that help ensure effectiveness in reducing the cardiovascular disease epidemic not only in the US but also globally. As possible, these guidelines should become the basis for US policy with regard to global cardiovascular health.

## **II. Core Values**

The following two core values will serve as the foundation for US global policies with cardiovascular health implications:

1. Health is a fundamental human right of all of the world's people.
2. Everyone should have a fair and equitable opportunity to attain his/her full health potential.

The rights to health of the poor, children, women and others least heard are as important and should be consistently protected. Based on this value, US policy may for example be actively engaged in promoting the rights to health of socially disadvantaged groups worldwide.

## **III. Guiding principles**

The above core values translate into the following guiding principles for US actions at a global level:

1. Solidarity in actions to work in partnerships globally towards common health goals
2. Support for local community participation consistent with local culture
3. Accountability at all levels so that US leaders are mindful of the implication of any US policy towards cardiovascular health in other parts of the world
4. Fostering of sustainable capacity in low/middle income countries to:
  - facilitate effective collaboration
  - provide technical support
  - avoid actions that diminish local networks and leadership
  - avoid actions that maintain decision making and control in the US
  - provide evidence-based rationale
  - encourage exchange of information and experience
5. Encouragement of advocacy for global cardiovascular health.
6. Promotion of health programs and actions around the world that aim first to support local cardiovascular health needs.

#### **IV. Implementation Strategies to Promote Cardiovascular Health**

Implementation strategies to promote cardiovascular health include primordial, primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention of heart disease and stroke worldwide, with special attention to:

- Support tobacco control particularly by promoting smoke free environments, tax increase of tobacco products, health warning labels for tobacco packaging, reducing smuggling and illicit trade of tobacco products, and other key elements of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
- Support healthy, adequate diets through the availability and affordability of healthier foods by implementation of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health
- Promote physical activity as part of everyday life through policy and environmental changes that encourage and enable active living
- Promote availability, affordability, and accessibility of essential drugs and lifestyle counseling, in conjunction with these lifestyle changes, to control cardiovascular disease risk factors prior to the onset of cardiovascular disease
- Promote availability, affordability and accessibility of essential drugs, lifestyle counseling, and other basic services for acute treatment of cardiovascular diseases and stroke
- Promote availability, affordability and accessibility of essential drugs, lifestyle counseling, and other basic services for long-term prevention of the recurrence or progression of cardiovascular diseases and tailored to each patient's risks and co-morbidities

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<sup>i</sup> *Interim CDC Global Goal Action Plan, Draft, August 2007*

**National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention**  
**2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 220, Atlanta, GA 30341**  
**phone number: (770) 458-7400 | fax number: (770) 458-7401**  
**Web site: [www.hearthealthystrokefree.org](http://www.hearthealthystrokefree.org)**