



Lahore Statement of the *Aman ki Asha*¹ Health Forum

TRADING HEALTH INNOVATIONS

THE SECOND AMAN KI ASHA INDO PAK HEALTH FORUM

May 7, 2012

We,

participants of the Second *Aman-ki-Asha* Indo Pak health Forum, and members of the *Aman-ki-Asha* Health committees, assembled in Lahore on May 7, 2012;

are delighted that we were able to build further on the momentum generated at the 1st *Aman-ki-Asha* Health Forum, the *Debut Meet* of both the Health Committees held in Delhi in July 2011;

once again, endorse and reiterate the importance of the *Delhi Declaration*²

reiterate our support and ongoing facilitation for collaborations and exchanges that have already been established as a follow up to the *Debut Meet* and the *Delhi Declaration*;

signal confidence in the *Aman-ki-Asha* platform, as the vehicle which will continue to be leveraged in order to convene our subsequent forums;

regard visa and travel facilitation as critical to the success of collaborative initiatives.

We,

regard this Forum as an important event in fostering bilateral collaboration in health and consider its focus on innovation as an important entry point to fostering a dialogue on ways to overcome systemic distortions in our health systems, which have a common origin;

have explored in-depth, similarities in our health systems and health outcomes, which call for joint efforts, experience sharing and mutual collaboration;

are cognizant of the need to trade ideas, innovations, services and human resources;

¹ *Aman ki Asha* is a bilateral non-governmental campaign, which advocates peace between the two neighbors, India and Pakistan. It aims to create an enabling environment for peace and reconciliation by facilitating dialogue and by encouraging people-to-people interaction at all levels. The Health Committee is one of the six committees operating under its aegis. This statement is the outcome of the Second Aman ki Asha Health Forum, the second convening of the Health Committees

² Appendix A

adjourn this Forum, with specific ideas for cooperation, which involve collaborative research, exchange visits, twinning institutions, and common advocacy to overcome societal distortions which impact health and welfare of our populations.

At this Forum,

our *Reproductive Health Track* commits to collaborate on an ongoing basis to advance mutual learning and sharing of experience, with a view to enable scaling-up best practices through exchange visits, joint research and advocacy initiatives. Given the huge young populations in both the countries, the Forum emphasizes the need to provide reproductive health information and services to young people so that both countries can reap the benefits of the demographic dividend;

our *Pharmaceutical Track* has emphasized the need for joint action towards capacity building, technology sharing, clinical research, harmonisation of the regulatory framework, elimination of spurious and counterfeit drugs and improving access to essential medicines;

our *Technology Track* has announced the establishment of an m-health Working Group, and dedication of a special periodical to showcase innovations in e-health. The track has also signaled intent to forge formal collaborations between centers of excellence to enable sharing of experiences and actively participating in respective e-health national conferences.

experts on both sides reiterated the need to “learn from each other” and capitalize on “sharing of experiences” relating to process, product and partnership innovations in the health sector, which enhance universal coverage goals, help to promote health equity, and leverage the private sector to promote quality in healthcare;

the *co-chairs*, committed themselves to a collaboration between their organizations to enable financial access to healthcare for the poorest and most vulnerable to signal the importance of health equity.

the *co-chairs* also committed to continuing with the tradition of hosting health forums for Peace, and providing a convening space *for health stakeholders from both sides, annually, in Pakistan and India*

Dr. Sania Nishtar
Pakistan

Dr. Naresh Trehan
India



AMAN KI ASHA INDO PAK HEALTH COMMITTEES DEBUT MEETⁱ

Joint Statement

July 29, 2011

We, participants of the Aman ki Asha Indo Pak health committee's debut meeting, assembled in Delhi on July 29, 2011

Welcome the Aman ki Asha campaign for peace between India and Pakistan, jointly initiated by the Jang Group of Pakistan and The Times of India Group

Emphasize the need to create an enabling environment for peace and reconciliation by facilitating dialogue and encouraging people-to-people interaction at all levels

Agree that such initiatives can serve as the stepping stone for building trust and goodwill on both sides

Accept collaboration in health as a catalyst for peace and an entry point to building bridges

Emphasize the need to collaborate towards a future in which populations of both the countries have an opportunity to attain the highest possible level of health and well-being

Recognize the need for addressing inequities in health and the excess mortality, morbidity, disability and care giver's burden, especially in poor and marginalized populations in both countries

Acknowledge that the risks to health that arise from environmental, economic, social and behavioural causes need to be addressed effectively across borders

Appreciate the significance of achieving health systems goals and the importance of prevention, control and treatment of diseases and health promotion

Urge governments, private sector and the civil society to work collaboratively towards the shared goal of saving lives, serving humanity and improving the health of all people

Call upon governments to facilitate trade in health to promote achievement of equitable health systems goals, inclusive of access to quality affordable medicines, quality service delivery and human resource availability

Call upon development partners to exploit regional synergies

Commit to

- *Providing a point of contact*, a convening space, a forum for stakeholders within the health sector
- *Using this forum as an advocacy platform* to influence decision makers to improve health status of populations on either side; focus on information sharing and synchronizing activities to address disease security concerns, such as polio, emerging and reemerging infections, and HIV and AIDS; advocate for improvements in reproductive health, family planning, maternal, newborn and child health, nutrition and communicable and non-communicable disease outcomes
- *Developing information pathways to “learn from each other” and capitalizing on “sharing of experiences”* in areas including, but not limited to the followingⁱ: lessons in breaking social resistance for polio eradication; community and policy support for new vaccines; experiences in human resource skills training; tackling antimicrobial resistance; experiences in broadening the base of health financing through interventions such as conditional cash transfers, micro-insurance, health equity fund models; lessons in private sector quality regulation, accreditation and patient safety; public-private partnerships/interactions to develop low cost solutions for health; community health interventions; policy interventions to promote injection safety; and overcoming the trust deficit between the public and private sectors
- *Developing initiatives aimed at “learning together”*. The following were identified by participants as some specific areas: access to affordable medicines, tackling childhood obesity as an entry point to addressing the non-communicable (NCD) epidemic, broadening the remit of NCDs to include non-communicable health issues of relevance to both countries such as thalasemia, and communicable disease issues of unique bilateral interest, such as hepatitis
- *Supporting collaborative research*, in areas of childhood obesity, traditional medicines use, NCDs, reproductive health, tobacco, youth fertility; and research in public health management to integrate NCDs at the primary healthcare level
- *Providing media support* to facilitate implementation of the objectives articulated herein

Agree upon a comprehensive list of action steps, defined measurable deliverables, specified timelines and selected champions. The meeting concluded on a high note of enthusiasm and hope.

Dr. Sania Nishtar
Pakistan

Dr. Naresh Trehan
India

ⁱ A meeting of the Aman ki Asha (AKA) Health Committees of India and Pakistan was held on July 29, 2011. The meeting was held under the aegis of AKA, the joint peace initiative launched by the Times of India and the Jang Group with the support of Confederation of Indian Industry. The Pakistani delegation was led by Dr. Sania Nishtar, President Heartfile, and included a number of prominent medical professionals and senior corporate heads belonging to the Pharma industry. The Indian delegation was led by Dr. Naresh Trehan and included many other stalwarts. After daylong deliberations, which included several presentations on issues of mutual importance, the joint meeting issued a declaration stressing the potential and benefits of collaboration and laying out the parameters as well as the mechanism for the way forward. The enclosed is the text of the declaration

ⁱⁱ In specific terms, these were recognized as having a high potential by participants of the meeting. These were not identified in order of priority but were based participants’ insights