

## **Doha Declaration**

2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Waterpipe Smoking Research

25-27 October, 2014

Building on the Declaration of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Waterpipe Smoking Research (ICWS) adopted in Abu Dhabi 23 October 2013, and acknowledging the crucial support of Hamad Medical Corporation, Weill Cornell Medical College Qatar and Director General of the Executive Board of the Health Ministers Council for Cooperation Council in convening this 2<sup>nd</sup> ICWS, we hereby declare that..."

1. Tobacco smoking continues to be the leading preventable cause of premature death and disability in the world and in the region.
2. Many parts of the world now face the double burden of cigarette and waterpipe smoking, each of which strengthens the prevalence and, potentially the harm, of the other.
3. Policies such as tobacco taxation, banning advertisement, promotion, and sponsorship, and clean indoor air policies exist to varying extents in the region, but require more effective implementation and enforcement to be effective.
4. Existing policies weakly address waterpipe smoking; if they are to be effective in confronting the waterpipe epidemic, policies must be adapted to account for the specificities of waterpipe smoking, and must be evaluated scientifically and regularly for their effectiveness.
5. Since this region has some of the highest rates of waterpipe use, we call on regional organizations including those of the GCC to give attention to and provide the financial resources necessary for local scientists to evaluate policies and investigate tobacco use methods relevant to the region, such as waterpipe, medwakh and smokeless tobacco.
6. Health care professionals at all levels should be at the forefront of efforts to prevent and control tobacco use, including waterpipe, by advising 'patients' to quit smoking as well as intervening where needed.
7. Supportive systems (homes/parent, schools/community based organizations) need to be strengthened to enhance their positive influence to prevent and/or control use of waterpipe, particularly among children and youth.
8. The role of the Director General of the Executive Board of the Health Ministers Council for Cooperation Council and WHO EMRO is crucial in tobacco control; their collaboration is vital to ensure that smoking ban laws are implemented properly and effectively.