

# Maputo Declaration

## Commitment to the democratization of Information and Scientific Knowledge in Portuguese speaking countries



We, the participants of the II Coordination Meeting for the Virtual Health Library (VHL) ePORTUGUÊSe, held in Maputo from November 17 to 20 2009:

### Considering

1. That democratization of access to information, knowledge and scientific evidence is essential to move forward on research, education and healthcare, as well as to strengthen informed public management and policies towards the Millennium Development Goals, and therefore to improve quality of individual and community life and health;
2. That Portuguese speaking countries, with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), work together to promote and support equitable access to reliable scientific information through the Virtual Health Library (VHL) ePORTUGUÊSe that compiles individuals and institutions that produce, intermediate and use scientific and technical health information through information and communication technologies (ICT) using the Web/Internet as well as mobile technologies, local solutions and hard copies;
3. That the development of infrastructure and information capabilities need, on one hand, specific National public policies and the community of Portuguese speaking countries to overcome its inequities of access to information and take ownership of the scientific evidence based information and, on the other hand, need the international cooperation of the developed countries;

4. That the VHL ePORTUGUÊSe and each National VHL have significantly improved in all Portuguese speaking countries, and have strongly contributed to overcome language barriers and access to information in all countries;
5. That the significant progresses of the VHL ePORTUGUÊSe in all countries have received strong support from National authorities, multilateral cooperation, and financial support from the European Commission (EC), the Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA); the Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND), and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, as well as from the technical cooperation of BIREME/PAHO/WHO, the Global WHO leadership and WHO Country Offices;
6. That the Ministry of Health of Mozambique have made remarkable progress in the development of its National VHL and have strongly contributed to the organization of the II Coordination meeting for the VHL ePORTUGUÊSe with the support of the WHO Country Office in Mozambique, and have contributed to the success of this meeting and to the development of the VHL ePORTUGUÊSe as a whole;

## **Commit**

1. To advocate and defend equitable access, sharing and ownership of scientific knowledge and information in all Portuguese speaking countries as an essential standard to improve individual and collective health;
2. To promote alongside National governments the development and implementation of policies to overcome information barriers such as: knowledge and scientific evidence to help research, education, and health promotion;
3. To increase the impact of National cooperative technical and scientific health information networks in all Portuguese speaking countries through their National VHL and the VHL ePORTUGUÊSe;
4. To strengthen governance and cooperative National VHL networks through a Consultative Committee with members from leading National health institutions and the guidance of a VHL action plan;
5. To strengthen and expand National capabilities and infrastructures to facilitate access to relevant and up to date health information using fixed and mobile ICT, web access, as well as disseminating the Blue Trunk Libraries;

6. To increase and maintain collection, indexation, visibility and accessibility to National scientific and technical full text literature;
7. To increase coverage and dissemination of National scientific and technical health products, services and events, and promote its international dissemination through the VHL ePORTUGUÊSe;
8. To organize every two years a VHL ePORTUGUÊSe coordination meeting to follow up progresses, discuss experiences and plan future actions for the development of National VHL. The III Coordination meeting for the VHL ePORTUGUÊSe will take place in São Tomé and Príncipe in 2011.

## **Urge**

1. All Governments of the Portuguese speaking countries to take ownership of the VHL ePORTUGUÊSe and to establish National programmes and policies to reinforce management and operational capabilities towards equitable access to evidence based health information;
2. Developed countries through their Development Cooperation Agencies to support, at medium and long term, the improvement of information capabilities and infrastructure of the Portuguese speaking countries through the VHL ePORTUGUÊSe;
3. WHO, through the ePORTUGUÊSe network, and BIREME/PAHO/WHO to strengthen technical cooperation actions towards the development of the VHL ePORTUGUÊSe in all Portuguese speaking countries.