

During the 'De Doelen meeting' in Rotterdam a symposium was organized on the topic "Obstetrics & Gynaecology in the tropics anno 2011".

As a result of this symposium the following declaration was made

## DE DOELEN DECLARATION APRIL 8, 2011

### Knowing that

- There is an insufficient political determination and respect in developing countries to really improve the situation of poor women and their babies
- The mother-child care in most developing countries does not meet the minimum standard of essential care
- It is unacceptable that women have insufficient access to information and safe reproductive health-care
- MDG4 and 5 are closely related to women's rights
- We as practicing gynecologist, doctors, obstetricians and other healthcare practitioners want to achieve concrete results

### We demand that

- The voice of women in developing countries is heard
- Improving the quality of reproductive healthcare will be a core priority
- Every developing country develops concrete plans to reduce maternal and reproductive mortality, including having sufficient and affordable facilities and staff
- The staff receives a qualitative good training
- The concrete plans will actually be carried out and that if and until necessary foreign personnel will assist in carrying out these duties
- The political leaders will adjust their policy to this and at the same time will use their influence to convince their colleagues in partner countries that education of their own staff is a requirement
- A government that takes insufficient measures to reduce maternal mortality will be held accountable by the international community
- FIGO (International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics) and ICM (International Confederation of Midwives) make MDG4 and MDG5 a priority

Marleen TEMMERMAN, Tarek MEGUID, JOS VAN ROOSMALEN, Evert SLAGER