



# PAN AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF SURGEONS

## STATEMENT FROM THE PAN AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF SURGEONS ON THE DELIVERY OF SURGICAL SERVICES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

The Pan African Association of Surgeons (PAAS) convened a meeting of its constituent Colleges and Associations in Cape Town, South Africa on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and issues the following statement.

### PREAMBLE

#### Whereas,

The Pan African Association of Surgeons (PAAS) with its affiliates

- The West African College of Surgeons (WACS)
- The College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA)
- The Association of Surgeons of South Africa (ASSA) and The College of Surgeons of South Africa (CSSA)

#### Share a common vision and understanding, amongst others, to:

- address / identify the problems related to the delivery of Surgical Care in Africa
- promote surgical services across the African continent
- co-ordinate surgical training and research
- engage in mutual exchange programmes with surgical institutions in Africa, and
- co-operate and collaborate with other bodies with similar objectives globally

#### We note that:

- Historically surgery has not been well integrated into the Primary Health Care (PHC) model
- The provision of surgical services in sub-Saharan Africa should be in alignment with the principle of Primary Health Care in order to enhance the health and wellbeing of all its citizens
- The Millennium development goals (sustainable development goals) cannot be achieved without the inclusion of surgical services
- The provision of surgical care has been limited by poorly resourced and developed human resources/capital and the lack of adequate funding for infrastructure

- The contribution of surgery to the health and wellbeing of all has not been recognised or prioritised

**And have subsequently resolved that as leaders of surgery in Sub-Saharan Africa we call on surgeons and leaders of our member states to:**

1. Reaffirm the commitment to the view that The Primary Health Care model should be the goal for health and health care delivery in sub Saharan Africa
2. Commit to the principle that the provision of essential life-saving surgical services must form an integral part of the PHC model

**We therefore call on our Colleges and Associations to:**

1. Establish a group to validate and recommend the implementation of the World Health Organisation integrated management for emergency and essential surgical care (IMEESC) tool for improving the quality and safety of surgical care services, training and research.
2. Define the required competencies required by the surgical workforce to achieve safe, quality, timely and cost effective surgical services.
3. Re-evaluate their roles in developing the surgical workforce
4. Develop collaborations to collectively promote and assist in the training of Surgical sub-specialists across Sub Saharan Africa
5. Support and promote the work of the Lancet Commission for Global surgery, WHO Emergency & Essential Surgical Care Program and the efforts of the international community to have a resolution passed in the World Health Assembly promoting emergency and essential surgical care
6. Promote research that will inform the implementation of a Global Surgery initiative
7. Identify and promote the establishment of centres of excellence for surgical care across the continent
8. Facilitate and promote transcontinental training of our surgical workforce

**In pursuance hereto, the PAAS calls upon policy makers and Governments to:**

- Include the providers of surgical care in all planning for the delivery of sustainable and comprehensive health care. This includes formal recognition of the 3 Regional Colleges and PAAS.
- Create mechanisms to promote and ensure the development of human resources by facilitating access to regional and inter regional training opportunities.
- Ensure that the provision of surgical infrastructure is made mandatory in all planning at the level of the District Health Service