

THE CALABAR COLLABORATION

A communiqué issued at the conclusion of the 8th WONCA Rural Health Conference held in Calabar , Cross River State of Nigeria from 20th – 22nd February 2008-02-27

- 1) We the Rural Family Physicians and other Family Physician Colleges , Associations and Societies of Nigeria and Rural Family Physicians of Wonca do hereby pledge and commit ourselves to intervene and assist in the provision of medical care and the alleviation of suffering to victims of disasters in the rural areas of Nigeria.
- 2) We pledge also that as representatives of the majority of family physicians practicing in the country we shall work with all the relevant government and private agencies involved in the management and mitigation of injury, disease and dislocation of rural peoples wherever and whenever disasters occur in rural areas.
- 3) We are aware that as practicing family physicians in both rural and urban areas, the rural parts of Nigeria in particular have suffered from severe and persistent neglect in terms of physical and infrastructural development and in the provision of Primary and Secondary health care services and hereby propose that all existing residency Post-Graduate training programmes for family physicians namely those of the national Post-Graduate Medical College of Nigeria and the West African College of Physicians should have a rural disaster management module included in their curriculum.
- 4) To this end we hereby move for the adoption of the Okoyong Rural Post-Graduate training centre of the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital by the World Organization of Family Doctors (Wonca) through the Wonca Rural Working Party as a pilot project for the training of Family Physicians in Disaster Medicine and Rural Medical Disaster management and pledge to fully support all initiatives both by Wonca and the Federal and State Governments in Nigeria to actualize this project and make it a reality.

Signed Dr N E Udonwa

Dr N P Obiegbu

Dr Ade Tade

Prof V A Inem

Dr A A Fatayi-Williams