



The World Medical Association (WMA) is the global federation of National Medical Associations representing the millions of physicians worldwide. Acting on behalf of patients and physicians, the WMA endeavors to achieve the highest possible standards of medical care, ethics, education and health-related human rights for all people.

It was founded on 17 September 1947, when physicians from 27 different countries met at the First General Assembly of the WMA in Paris. The organization was created to ensure the independence of physicians, and to work for the highest possible standards of ethical behavior and care by physicians, at all times.

WMA has always been an independent confederation of free professional associations. Funding has been by the annual contributions of its members, which has now grown to 83 National Medical Associations.

The WMA provides a forum for its member associations to communicate freely, to cooperate actively, to achieve consensus on high standards of medical ethics and professional competence, and to promote the professional freedom of physicians worldwide.

This unique partnership facilitates high-calibre, humane care to patients in a healthy environment, enhancing the quality of life for all people in the world.

Major Policies of the World Medical Association include the:

**World Medical Association International Code of Medical Ethics
(Including the Declaration of Geneva)**

World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki

**World Medical Association Declaration on the Rights of the Patient
(Declaration of Lisbon)**

**The World Medical Association Declaration of Tokyo. Guidelines for
Physicians Concerning Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading
Treatment or Punishment in Relation to Detention and Imprisonment**

**World Medical Association Declaration Concerning Support for Medical
Doctors Refusing to Participate in, or to Condone, the Use of Torture or Other
Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (Declaration of Hamburg)**

**The World Medical Association Resolution on the Responsibility of Physicians
in the Denunciation of Acts of Torture or Cruel or Inhuman or Degrading
Treatment.**

**World Medical Association Declaration on Hunger Strikers (Declaration of
Malta)**