



**International
Confederation
of Midwives**

Strengthening Midwifery Globally

30 August 2015

WHO Regional Committee for Europe,
65th Session, Vilnius Lithuania
UN City, Marmorvej 51,
DK-2100
Copenhagen
Denmark
Europe

**Re: Item 5 of the Agenda - Policy and Technical topics
(C) Priorities for health systems strengthening in the WHO European Region 2015-2020:
Walking the talk on people centredness.**

"Midwifery has an explicit contribution to make to quality maternity and newborn care in regard to education, information and health promotion; assessment, screening and care-plans; promotion of normal processes and preventing complications in the context of respectful care that is tailored to women's needs and works to strengthen women's capabilities (Renfrew et al 2014). Robust analysis of data coming out of the SoWMy 2014 report projects that midwives, when educated to international standards, well-regulated and well-supported in functional enabling environments, can provide 87% of the essential care needed for women and newborns and that when governments invest in midwives and midwifery services and provide the said supportive environment, midwives' contribution leads to a 16 fold return on investment. Nonetheless, despite this convincing evidence, midwives are often not included in the policy dialogue on health plans and health-system strengthening. ICM consequently urges health administrators and policy-makers to invest in midwifery services and midwives and include midwives in policy decision making. Being the people on the ground they have a lived experience and knowledge to contribute to the development of context-specific policies and implementation strategies, define essential service packages appropriate for their country for maximum efficiency and effectiveness in the efforts to reduce maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality"

References:

Renfrew, M.J., McFadden, A., Bastos, M.H., Campell, J., Channon, A.A., et al (2014). Midwifery and quality care: Findings from a new evidence-informed framework for maternal and newborn care. *Midwifery Lancet Series*. 384, 1129-45

UNFPA (2014) *The State of the World's Midwifery Report. A universal pathway to health: A woman's right to health*. UNFPA. ISBN:978-0-89714-026-3

Yours sincerely,

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