

The department of surgery would like to inform all members of the surgical fraternity in the School of the very significant outcome from the meeting of the World Health Executive Board. At their meeting held on the 29th January 2015 they resolved to recommend to the upcoming World Health Assembly (WHA), the adoption of a draft resolution on 'Strengthening emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia as a component of universal health coverage'.

The department acknowledges the contribution of the governments Australia, Kenya, Monaco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Ukraine, United States of America and Zambia who sponsored this motion.

In effect this means if adopted by the WHA sometime later in May 2015, surgery, obstetrics and Anaesthesia will now be given priority at primary treatment levels in the health system.

Amongst other issues member states will be required to;

- Establish a core set of emergency and essential surgery and anaesthesia services
- strengthen infection prevention and control as a critical element of ensuring quality and safety of emergency and essential surgical care and anaesthesia
- to develop and implement surgical care and anaesthesia policies to assure minimum standards for a skilled workforce,
- Ensure adequate equipment, infrastructure and supplies, and documenting, monitoring, and evaluation of access to and quality of services, to be embedded in programmes and legislation based on current knowledge and considerations promoting the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health