

World Health Assembly Resolution on Emergency and Essential Surgery and Anaesthesia adopted

Department of surgery is proud to be associated with the unanimous adoption at the World Health Assembly of the resolution (68/31), on "Strengthening Emergency and Essential Surgical Care as a Component of Universal Health Coverage". This resolution was adopted on Thursday 21 May 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland. This resolution follows many years of the surgical fraternity efforts to have surgery and the neglected surgical patient put on the public health agenda.

The resolution was led by Zambia and co-sponsored by a number of countries including Kenya.

The assembly acknowledges the indispensable role that surgery and anaesthesia as a component of a resilient health system. Through this resolution member states will now be obliged to ensure access to emergency surgery and anaesthesia for its citizens.

This resolution addresses a fairly wide scope of surgical and anaesthetic issues. Included are;

- Ensuring manpower development (and to extent retention and motivation)
- Provide access to essential medicines, medical devices and equipment with development of required infrastructure and proper antibiotic usage
- Surgery in emergency and military situations

As stated by the G4 Alliance "This historic event will help open the door for national capacity building, health systems strengthening and overall greater prioritisation of essential surgical and anaesthesia to those in need"

Professors Stephen Ogendo and Pankaj Jani attended the meeting as part of the Kenya delegation.