



## **DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR FIGO/ICM GLOBAL EFFORT TO PREVENT POST-PARTUM HAEMORRHAGE**

*International Confederation of Midwives (ICM)  
International Federation of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians (FIGO)*

ICM and FIGO are key partners in global Safe Motherhood efforts to reduce maternal death and disability in the world. Their mission statements share a common commitment in promoting the health, human rights and well-being of all women, most especially those at greatest risk for death and disability associated with childbearing. FIGO and ICM promote evidence-based, effective interventions that, when used properly with informed consent, can reduce the incidence of maternal mortality and morbidity in the world.

Severe bleeding is the single most important cause of maternal death worldwide. More than half of all maternal deaths occur within 24 hours of delivery, mostly from excessive bleeding. Every pregnant woman may face life-threatening blood loss at the time of delivery; women with anaemia are particularly vulnerable since they may not tolerate even moderate amounts of blood loss. Every woman needs to be closely observed and, if needed, stabilized during the immediate postpartum period. Upon review of the available evidence, FIGO and ICM agree that active management of the third stage of labour is proven to reduce the incidence of postpartum haemorrhage, the quantity of blood loss, and the use of blood transfusion.

We the undersigned believe that active management of the third stage of labour should be offered to women since it reduces the incidence of postpartum haemorrhage due to uterine atony. We declare our support for FIGO/ICM collaborative efforts to promote active management of the third stage of labour. As national leaders of professional associations, we pledge to take action to prevent postpartum haemorrhage.