

Leading the World to Optimal Oral Health

ADOPTED by the FDI General Assembly **September, 2006** in **Shezhen, China**

The Role of the Dental Team

FDI has a commitment to lead the world to optimal oral health. For many communities oral health care services are not accessible, especially in low- and middle-income countries. The FDI therefore fully endorses the principles of the primary healthcare approach as defined by the WHO *Alma Ata Declaration* to make essential healthcare universally available and affordable through practical, scientifically sound and socially acceptable approaches and with full participation of the communities concerned. FDI strongly supports the integration of oral healthcare as an important part of a primary healthcare approach wherever possible, with the ultimate goal of reducing inequalities in access to oral healthcare.

The dental team, led by the dentist, is essential in the prevention of oral diseases and in ensuring the best possible quality of oral healthcare. The composition of the team may vary and depends on community needs, available resources and local legislation. All members of the dental team must be appropriately trained and legally allowed to participate in the delivery of oral healthcare always under supervision of a dentist. Roles and responsibilities of all team members should be specified and defined by the professional dental organizations and appropriate regulatory authorities.