

Address given by the President of the World Medical Association, Dr. Ketan Desai, on occasion of the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Chinese Medical Association on Jan.14, 2017 in Nanjing, China

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to address this erudite, learned gathering of people who have the interest, passion and uppermost in their mind and are committed to discipline the objectives, commitment and credibility alike. The scope and relevance of the medical profession has been paramount for men and mankind for wide and varied reason and will continue to do until eternity. It is for this very reason that the concern and challenge that we need to be addressed in the nick of time so that its relevance in terms of catering to mankind remain unbridled and uncompromised.

It is in this very context that I flagged up the substantial issue of importance and consequence in my presidential address made at the assembly of the World Medical Association on reminding the charter of its presidency on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016. One of the important concern which I put across therein pertained to the threat that loom large over the medical profession, in a brazen manner. It is a matter of common realization that physicians are under constant threat all over the world, in as much as that in some part of the world hospitals are bombarded, ambulance hijacked, nurses and doctors kidnapped or killed and physicians are persecuted, threatened and tortured in a most inhuman manner. Likewise, especially in Asian countries, doctors are assaulted and medical establishments, attacked and damaged. To state it realistically, the Geneva Convention is practiced more in its contravention than in its faithful and diligent observance, which invariably end up in flagrant violation of otherwise inviolate human rights. This scene needs to be changed and altered by deliberate initiative emanating out of committed will for the same.



Expert input from professional association, through their understanding of the issue, and through required scientific evidence generated through experimental and research based evidence. A huge and substantial onus lies on the shoulder of medical professionals, to dispense their larger responsibility in it effectively and bring the desired success to health care delivery system so that it meaningfully extend health service to all the needy, including the underprivileged. This requires professional undertaking the challenge with a sense of decisive determination and focused commitment upholding the larger purpose which would give them credit and credibility, including societal recognition and public respect which has been marginalized substantially at of now. Let us therefore take inspiration from the words of Swami Vivekananda, the great monk philosopher from India, to the effect that "We arise, awake and do not till the goal achieved"

Thank you!