The FIGO Initiative on Prevention of Unsafe Abortion
How providers are making a difference

FIAPAC Congress
Lisbon, 13th-16th October, 2016
Mahmoud Fathalla statement

• We obstetricians/gynecologists can be part of problem (of women health) and should become part of the solution…
Mahmoud Fathalla statement

• We obstetricians/gynecologists can be part of problem (of women health) and should become part of the solution…

• Unsafe abortion is a very serious women’s health problem and we are a very important part of the problem.
The FIGO Initiative on Prevention of Unsafe abortion

It was created in 2007 under the leadership of Dorothy Shaw, with the purpose of reducing the burden of unsafe abortion for women, particularly in countries with restrictive abortion laws.
How to reduce unsafe abortion and its consequences

- **Primary Prevention**: Less unintended pregnancies and abortions
How to reduce unsafe abortion and its consequences

• **Primary Prevention**: Less unintended pregnancies and abortions

• **Secondary Prevention**: Non preventable abortions should be safe
How to reduce unsafe abortion and its consequences

- **Tertiary Prevention**: Unsafe abortions do not complicate and kill the woman
How to reduce unsafe abortion and its consequences

• **Tertiary Prevention**: Unsafe abortions do not complicate and kill the woman

• **Quaternary Prevention**: Post-abortion counseling and services to prevent repeated abortions
Secondary Prevention: Can be achieved by

• Providing access to safe abortion services to women who fulfill with the legal conditions
Secondary Prevention: Can be achieved by

• Providing access to safe abortion services to women who fulfill with the legal conditions
• Broadening the conditions on which abortion is legally allowed
Classification of the countries according to abortion laws

- Abortion prohibited altogether
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• Abortion prohibited altogether
• To save the woman’s life
### Classification of the countries according to abortion laws

- Abortion prohibited altogether
- To save the woman’s life
- To preserve health (also to save the woman’s life).
Classification of the countries according to abortion laws

- Abortion prohibited altogether
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- To preserve health (also to save the woman’s life)
- Socioeconomic grounds (also to save the woman’s life and health)
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Abortion prohibited altogether

• In 2008
Out of 5 countries only the Nicaraguan Society included advocacy to reinstall therapeutic abortion in Nicaraguan legislation in its plan of action.
Abortion prohibited altogether

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Out of 5 countries only the Nicaraguan Society included advocacy to reinstall therapeutic abortion in Nicaraguan legislation in its plan of action.

In 2016
Four of five (but El Salvador) included advocacy for the approval of more liberal abortion laws in their plans of action.
To save the woman’s life

• In 2008

• Out of 14 countries, only Bangladesh included increased access to Menstrual Regulation (MR) in its plan of action
To save the woman’s life

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• Out of 14 countries, only Bangladesh included increased access to Menstrual Regulation (MR) in its plan of action

In 2016

Five of the 14 countries included the provision of safe abortion services in their plans of action.
To preserve woman’s health

• In 2008
• Out of 14 countries, only Ethiopia and Mozambique mentioned, the provision of safe legal abortion services
To preserve woman’s health

• In 2008
  • Out of 14 countries, only Ethiopia and Mozambique mentioned, the provision of safe legal abortion services

In 2016

Five of the 14 countries included the provision of safe abortion services in their plans of action.
Socioeconomic grounds, also to save the woman’s life & health

• In 2008

Only two countries in this group (Zambia and India). Zambia introduced the provision of safe abortion services the first year of the Initiative and improving quality in India.
Socioeconomic grounds, also to save the woman’s life & health

• **In 2008**

Only two countries in this group (Zambia and India). Zambia introduced the provision of safe abortion services the first year of the Initiative and improving quality in India.

**In 2016**

Continue the expansion of safe abortion services in Zambia, emphasis on second trimester abortion in India.
Without restriction as to reason

• In 2008
• There were 9 countries, in these group, all providing safe abortion services
Without restriction as to reason

- In 2008
  - There were 9 countries, in these group, all providing safe abortion services

In 2016

One additional country reformed the abortion law to be allowed to women request (Uruguay)
Providers role in the FIGO Initiative on Prevention of Unsafe Abortion

Progress was achieved through gentle persuasion of providers by:

- Showing the scientific evidences
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Progress was achieved through gentle persuasion of providers by:

- Show the scientific evidences
- Disseminating power points presentations with the seal of FIGO
Providers role in the FIGO Initiative on Prevention of Unsafe Abortion

Progress was achieved through gentle persuasion of providers by:

• Showing the scientific evidences
• Disseminating power points presentations with the seal of FIGO
• The example of the most progressive countries at the Regional workshops
Progress achieved by the FIGO Initiative on Prevention of Unsafe Abortion

- Progress was slow and achieved in stages:

1. Unsafe abortion exists, causes great damage to woman and actions should be taken to prevent it.
Progress achieved by the FIGO Initiative on Prevention of Unsafe Abortion

• Progress was slow and achieved in stages:

1. Unsafe abortion exists, causes great damage to woman and actions should be taken to prevent it

2. Restrictive abortion laws and lack of access to safe abortion do not reduce the number of abortions
Progress achieved by the FIGO Initiative on Prevention of Unsafe Abortion

• Progress was slow and achieved in stages:

1. Unsafe abortion exists, causes great damage to woman and actions should be taken to prevent it
2. Restrictive abortion laws and lack of access to safe abortion do not reduce the number of abortions
3. Provision of safe abortion services within the limits of the law is a women’s right and providers obligation
Future of the FIGO Initiative on Prevention of Unsafe Abortion

The 47 participating countries want to continue this process and new countries would like to joint
Future of the FIGO Initiative on Prevention of Unsafe Abortion

The 47 participating countries want to continue this process and new countries would like to join.

More colleagues want to become "part of the solution"
MUITO OBRIGADO