



Strengthening Midwifery Globally

## PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WOMEN AND MIDWIVES

# Position statement

### BACKGROUND

The ICM's *International Code of Ethics* urges midwives to respect a woman's informed right of choice and promote her acceptance of responsibility for the outcomes of her choices. Midwives work with women, supporting their right to participate actively in decisions about their care, and empowering women to speak for themselves on issues affecting the health of women and their families in their culture/society.

### STATEMENT OF BELIEF

The International Confederation of Midwives acknowledges that midwifery is a profession which is based upon a partnership between women and midwives.

### POSITION

The International Confederation of Midwives will take every opportunity to work with groups representing the interests of women at international and national level to achieve worldwide equitable reproductive health outcomes. All initiatives undertaken to aid the further development of the midwifery profession will be premised on

- the health care needs of women and their newborn
- the involvement of women in the process of identification of those needs
- encouraging midwives to proactively have women, as the consumers of midwifery care, participate in the activities directed at the provision of quality care
- encouraging midwives' associations to involve women and consumers in their activities.

### GUIDING STATEMENT TO MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS:

Member Associations are urged to accept this statement for action in their own environment.

### RELATED ICM DOCUMENTS

- ICM International Code of Ethics for Midwives (1993)
- ICM Philosophy and Model of Midwifery Care (2005)

### OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- World Health Report 2005. Make every mother and child count. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO, 2005.

**Adopted at Brisbane Council meeting, 2005**

*Due for next review 2011*