PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WOMEN AND MIDWIVES

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 their health and that of their families in their culture/society. Midwifery is a profession that is based upon a partnership between women and midwives aiming to promote health outcomes.

POSITION
The ICM 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 newborns
- 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
- Urge midwives associations to involve women in their activities
- Secure women-friendly services through midwives who value women’s self-governance and clinical guidelines
- Promote the adoption of practice guidelines supporting women’s informed choice and the importance obtaining consent for all aspects of care

RECOMMENDATIONS
Member Associations are urged to accept this statement for action in their own environment.
RELATED ICM DOCUMENTS
ICM International Code of Ethics for Midwives (2011)
ICM Philosophy and Model of Midwifery Care (2005)

OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

Adopted at Brisbane International Council meeting, 2005
Revised and endorsed at Durban International Council meeting, 2011
Due for next review 2017