



<b>FDI POLICY STATEMENT</b>
<b>LEADING THE WORLD TO OPTIMAL ORAL HEALTH – THE ROLE OF THE DENTAL TEAM</b>
<b>Adopted by the FDI General Assembly: 24 September 2006 – Shenzhen China</b>

The 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 health care approach as defined by the WHO *Alma Ata Declaration* to make essential health care universally available and affordable through practical, scientifically sound and socially acceptable approaches and with full participation of the communities concerned. The FDI strongly supports the integration of oral health care as an important part of a primary health care approach wherever possible, with the ultimate goal of reducing inequalities in access to oral health care.

The dental team, led by the dentist, is essential in the prevention of oral diseases and in ensuring the best possible quality of oral health care. 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 health care always under supervision of a dentist. Roles and responsibilities of all team members should be specified and defined by the professional dental organisations and appropriate regulatory authorities.