

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 feel greatly honoured to address this erudite, learned gathering of people who have the interests of the profession uppermost in their minds and are committed to dispense the objectives thereto with commitment and credibility alike. The scope and relevance of the medical profession has been paramount for men and mankind for wide and varied reasons and will continue to be so until eternity. It is for this very reason that the concerns and challenges that confront it need to be addressed in the nick of time so that its relevance in terms of catering to mankind remains unbridled and uncompromised.

It is in this very context that I flagged up substantial issues of importance and consequence in my presidential address made at the assembly of the World Medical Association on resuming the charge of its presidency on 22nd October 2016. One of the important concerns which I put across therein pertained to the threat that looms large over the medical professionals 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 parts of the world hospitals are bombarded, ambulances hijacked, nurses and doctors kidnapped or killed and physicians are pressured, 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 contraventions than in its faithful and diligent observance, which invariably ends up in flagrant violation of otherwise inviolate human rights. This scene needs to be changed and altered by desired initiatives emerging out of committed will for the same.

expert inputs from professional associations, through diligent understanding of the issues, and through required scientific evidence generated out of experimental and research based indulgences. A huge and substantial onus lies on the shoulders of medical professionals to dispense their larger responsibility in its elegance and bring the desired succour to health care delivery systems so that it meaningfully extends health services to all the needy, including the under privileged. This requires professionals undertaking these challenges 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 as of now. Let us therefore take inspiration from the words of Swami Vivekanand, the greatest monk philosopher from India, to the effect that “We arise, awake and stop not till the goal is achieved”

Thank you!