

Opening speech at the IX COBEON*, III CIEON*, and ABENFO* 2015 in Belém, PA, Brazil

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The IX COBEON and III CIEON were organized by ABENFO and implemented by the Pará (PA) Session of ABENFO in the “heart” of the Amazon (Belém City, Pará State, 2-4 Dez 2015). The congress theme was “Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing: impacts, achievements, and challenges for sexual and reproductive health and safe and enjoyable maternity”.

After three decades of existence of ABENFO, we highlight some landmarks: a) the firm defense of human and citizen rights of both women and men in the context of the society and family; b) its engagement in including nursing professionals in the government proposals to defend SUS (which is equitable, has an expanded coverage, unrestricted access, management and care for quality, and participation of all professionals); c) the recognition of Nursing as an applied social science, which is committed to the care, teaching, and research trilogy, and its reciprocal relationship between the practical and academic worlds, and d) its commitment to the social movements including women and the health professional categories, a commitment that is inherent to a humanistic and ecological profession of the art of caring for life.

In addition, we recognize the internal movements that occurred along the professional and ABENFO journeys, such as those of students during their undergraduate courses, specializations in obstetric

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and neonatal nursing, residency in obstetric nursing, women's health, masters and doctoral students, as well as other professionals in their distinct operation areas. We also recognize the movements that have the COFEN-CORENs system as a driving force, through the action of the Technical Chambers who inspect the professional practice and Nursing Code of Ethics for defense and strengthening of profession and life.

In the opening session, we said what we call an *opening prayer*, which was constructed with the collaboration of all presidents of ABENFO since it was established. We highlighted the ethical, political, and technical scientific aspects of ABENFO, which has been committed to the philosophy of SUS and operated with focus on the development of the society, especially the health of women and their political and sociocultural training, thus meeting the mission of ABENFO, which is aligned with the defense of the human and citizen rights. Its mission corresponds to its history, which was marked not only by struggles, movements, progress and achievements, but also great challenges of the category and State whose claims it aims to meet.

In this opening prayer in favor of life, we highlight the theme of the "Cobeeon of the Amazon", which is based on three fundamental objectives: 1) safe motherhood, as the guiding principle to chose non-interventionist models in care processes and life of individuals and social groups; 2) (re)visiting conceptual controversies and program deviations imposed by undesirable guidelines; (in this sense, we reaffirm our commitment to improve maternal health and reduce maternal and newborn mortality, although Brazil has not yet reached the MDG N° 5 (UNO, 2000); and 3) political action of ABENFO, which is an entity legally constituted by nursing professionals, and represents individual (women, men, children, and families) and public health, together with other entities (ABEn, its Regional Sections, COFEN-CORENs system, Nursing Federations & Labor Unions, and others) that represent the movements in the states, governments, societies, and communities.

Concluding this opening prayer, we invite every nursing professional to celebrate the unity of both

our category and ABENFO, with the establishment and launch of an Advisory Council of Presidents of ABENFO, which consists of all ABENFO presidents (since 1989), who we cite by their names:

Administration (1992-1995), with Marilanda Lopes de Lima, who was a landmark of the origin of ABENFO and whose administration was characterized by the transition from ABO to the establishment of ABENFO, making concrete the myths and rites of obstetric nursing, including this congress. We point out that the activities of ABENFO (1989-1991) began under her leadership.

Administrations (1996-1999 and 2000-2002), with Maria Antonieta Rubio Tyrrell, who was the first president elected, and characterized her administration with i) institutionalization of ABENFO at the national and international levels, ii) strengthening its articulations with the PAHO and the Brazilian MH and universities, and iii) linking ABENFO to both ABEn and the REHUNA.

Administration (2003-2005), with Rosângela da Silva Santos, who strengthened i) the institutional advances of previous administrations, ii) the spaces conquered at the level of the Brazilian MH and iii) the relationship between ABENFO and JICA for training of obstetric nurses in Japan.

Administration (2006-2008), with Marli Vilela Mamede, who i) strengthened ABENFO and ii) developed the competencies proposed by the ICM with actions proposed by the Brazilian MH and PAHO.

Administrations (2009-2011 and 2012-2014), with Valdecyr Herdy Alves, who i) developed ABENFO in the national and international levels, as well as in its relations with governments, ii) strengthened the relationship between ABENFO and the COFEN-CORENs system, and iii) promoted the first COBENEIO.

Current administration (2015-present), with Kleyde Ventura de Souza who, while saying this opening prayer, reaffirms the guiding proposals and actions for a good development of the i) technical-scientific and academic nursing and ii) women's health in the ethical, political and social aspects, thus consolidating the ABENFO trajectory, which is connected to the history of the former presidents here acknowledged.

On behalf of all these people and of the National Board of Directors of ABENFO, I declare the IX COBEON and III CIEON open, and I reaffirm that Nursing, in the specialties of women's health and obstetric and neonatal nursing, will strengthen the protagonism of those who care and are cared for in the SUS, based on the commitment to a technical-scientific, social, and ethical performance of ABENFO.

Be welcome to the “COBEON of the Amazon, the COBEON of COBEONS”!

*Abbreviations: ABEn (*Associação Brasileira de Enfermagem*): Brazilian Nursing Association; ABENFO (*Associação Brasileira de Obstetras e Enfermeiros Obstetras*): Brazilian Association of Midwives and Obstetric Nurses; ABO (*Associação Brasileira de Obstetras*): Brazilian Association of Midwives; CIEON (*Congresso Internacional de Enfermagem Obstétrica e Neonatal*): International Congress of Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing; COBENEO (*Congresso Brasileiro de Enfermagem Neonatal*): Brazilian Congress on Neonatal Nursing; COBEON (*Congresso Brasileiro de Enfermagem Obstétrica e Neonatal*): Brazilian Congress of Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing; COFEN (*Conselho Federal de Enfermagem*): Federal Council of Nursing; CORENs (*Conselhos Regionais de Enfermagem*): Regional Councils of Nursing; ICM (International Confederation of Midwives); JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency); MDG (Millennium Development Goal); MS (*Ministério da Saúde do Brasil*): Brazilian Ministry of Health, MH; PAHO (Pan American Health Organization); REHUNA (*Rede de Humanização do Parto e Nascimento*): Network for Humanization of Labor and Delivery; SUS (*Sistema Único de Saúde*): Unified Health System; and UNO (United Nations Organization).