

**On  
Women's Health and Rights  
Lectures, Speeches and Statements**

Mahmoud F. Fathalla

**Preface**

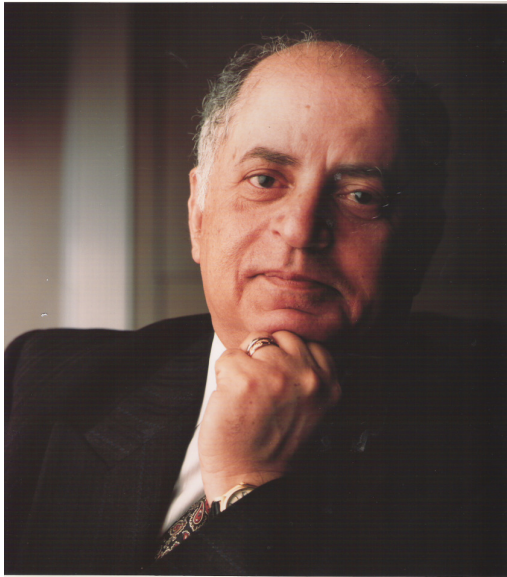
The International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics FIGO has upheld the view that women's health is often compromised, not because of lack of medical knowledge, but because of infringement on women's God given human rights. FIGO eminent leadership and members, with others, took their stand, in word and action, beside and behind women in their just struggle. Many of my generation have already left our world stage or are getting ready for their exit. We are leaving an agenda unfinished and a challenge that still stands. But we have full trust in a new generation of women's health professionals to carry the torch forward.

I have selected 40 lectures and speeches, delivered over a period of more than 25 years (from 1987 to 2014) in countries of Africa, Asia, North America, South America. and Europe, in FIGO Congresses, other professional congresses, global safe motherhood conferences, academies and universities, World Health Organization, International Planned Parenthood Federation IPPF, World Bank, United Nations UN, UN Commission on Women, and UN Human Rights Council. The lectures and speeches are more about preaching than teaching. I have arranged the 40 lectures and speeches in four folders: Women's health and rights (12), Sexual and Reproductive health and rights (10), Safe motherhood (12), and Women, Population and family planning (6). I added a file with selected statements from the lectures and speeches that may be useful for as quotation. The documents are in word format. I incorporated the powerpoint slides in the text so that they can be copied and pasted in a new presentation. Each lecture/ speech can be read on its own and in any order. Statements may be repeated in more than one document, rather than making cross references.

I hope this compilation may be of help to our younger colleagues in their continued advocacy work for women's health and rights.

M.F.Fathalla

### About the author



Professor Mahmoud F. Fathalla,  
 MD (Cairo); PhD (Edinburgh);  
 Honorary Doctor: Uppsala University, Sweden; Helsinki University, Finland; Toronto University, Canada; Hasselt University, Belgium. Honorary Fellow: American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.  
 Recipient of the United Nations Population Award for the year 2009;  
 Recipient of the first IPPF award for individual contribution to sexual and reproductive health and rights 2009;  
 Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and former Dean of the Medical School, Assiut University, Egypt;  
 Former Director of the UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Program of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction;  
 Former Chairman of the International Medical Advisory Panel of the International Planned Parenthood Federation;  
 Former Chairman of the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Health Research;  
 Chairman, Advisory Committee on Health Research, WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region;  
 Author of the book "From obstetrics and Gynecology to women's health" 1997;  
 Co-author of the book "Reproductive Health and Human Rights- Integrating medicine, ethics and law" (Oxford University Press, 2003), translated into French, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese;  
 Author of the book "Issues in Women's Health and Rights- International, Arab Regional and Egyptian Perspectives" IPPF Arab World Region. 2008

#### **International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics:**

Member of Executive Board 1976

Chairman, Committee on Medical Aspects of Human Reproduction 1979

Co-Chairman, FIGO/ WHO Alliance for Women's Health 1982  
Chairman, Scientific Programme Committee, 11<sup>th</sup> Congress, Berlin 1985  
Vice-President 1985  
Co-editor, FIGO Teaching Manual on Human Reproduction (English, French, Spanish, Chinese) 1990  
President-elect 1991  
Editor, FIGO first World Report on Women's Health 1994  
President 1994  
FIGO Save the Mothers Fund, 1997  
Immediate Past-President 1997  
Co-Chairman, FIGO Committee for Women's Sexual and reproductive Rights, 1998