

**Minister of health and social services Susanna Huovinen**

**Opening ceremony and welcoming remarks  
8GCHP 10.6.2013 at 09:00-09:45 \*Finlandia Hall**

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(9:00 Cantores minores sing two songs)

9:10

Your Excellency Mr President, Director General Chan, Honorable Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to welcome you to the 8<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Health Promotion.

Health is a core value for people. Health is also an important asset for the individual and the society to reach other goals. Health services are crucial for health promotion, prevention, care and cure, but these cannot bring about the health of a population alone. Health is very much a result of the conditions to which people are born, in which they grow, learn, work, live and age. An important aspect of health promotion is to make those conditions conducive to health. Therefore it is important that we consider health in all policies.

I would like to thank the Cantores Minores.

The Choir of Boys and Young Men of Helsinki Cathedral was founded in 1952. It follows in the footsteps of the European protestant 'Knabenchor' -tradition. Cantores Minores acts as Music Institute where tuition in musical theory and voice as well as some instruments is given to boys from age seven. There are a total over 400 members in the various stages of the choir, ages from 4 to 25 and over 3000 boys and young men have sung in the Cantores Minores during its 60 years of ex-

istence and the choir has produced numerous professional musicians active in a variety of fields.

The choir's present conductor is Mr. Hannu Norjanen. He received his early musical training in the Cantores Minores boys' choir. In Hannu Norjanen's time the choir's a cappella repertoire has been broadened to include a wide choice of international choral masterpieces as well as modern Finnish choir music. The two pieces we just heard were the famous Finlandia hymn by Jean Sibelius and Lähtö, or departure in English, by Eino-Juhani Rautavaara.

The President of the Republic of Finland, Mr Sauli Niinistö, will now declare the 8<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Health Promotion open.

09:26

Thank you, Mr President.

I would now like to welcome to the stage Director General Margaret Chan of WHO.

She was appointed as the Director General in 2006 and reappointed in 2012. Before being elected Director-General, Dr Chan was WHO Assistant Director-General for Communicable Diseases as well as Representative of the Director-General for Pandemic Influenza. Prior to joining WHO, she was Director of Health in Hong Kong. During her nine-year tenure as director, Dr Chan confronted the first human outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza in 1997. She successfully defeated the spate of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in Hong Kong in 2003. She also launched new services to prevent disease and promote better health.

09:43

Thank you Dr Chan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Next we will see a video which will be is a precursor of opening plenary: From Ottawa to Helsinki: Challenges, successes and lessons learned. The video will commence by highlighting the current status of global health promotion and our key challenges. It will then focus on what has been achieved in the past. Finally it will consider what action can be taken now and into the future in the field of health promotion.

09:55

Next in the programme we have a panel discussion, From Ottawa to Helsinki: Challenges, successes and lessons learned. The panel is moderated by Dr Gaya Gamhewage, Coordinator of the WHO Flagship Communications. The stage is yours.