Message of President of ISBT to 2nd International Conference on Transfusion Medicine/Plasma Industry in Tehran, Iran, May 10-11, 2011

I am Silvano Wendel, President of ISBT, and speaking from Brazil. It is with great sorrow that I cannot attend this very important meeting in Tehran, due to medical problems which prevent me to endure long distance flights during 4 weeks. Although not present today in Iran, I couldn't be away from you in spirit, mind and soul. So, I hope that this message from my country, Brazil, will reach all of you today.

Iran is facing a dramatically development in Blood Transfusion, mainly because of efficient, devoted and competent activities from IBTO. I have followed some of the activities in this country in this past decade, trough different common activities organized in Geneva by the WHO, by a number of different conferences organized by ISBT all over the world, and lastly when I went to your country 4 years ago, where I had the opportunity to visit Blood Centers in Tehran, Isfahan and Shiraz. On that occasion, I saw a dedicated team of professionals, with excellent knowledge about Blood Transfusion and the several aspects concerning Blood Safety. Although it was clear for me that in your country there was already a strong and steady National Blood Program, like many countries of the world, there were still many things to be implemented. And I consider that as a positive sign, once whenever there is a need for development, there will be a reason for collaboration with other countries. And that is part of my target as President of ISBT. To foster good understanding and collaboration amongst several countries of the world, regardless of their economical, cultural, political, religious or development differences. In this aspect, ISBT, through the ISBT Academy is now supporting different educational activities, meetings and conferences in 10 different countries only this year.

The scientific program, carefully organized for this meeting seems quite challenging, updated and exciting. I am sure that it will benefit the people from Iran, not only because of the interesting discussions concerning several state of the art subjects, but above all due to the main focus on plasma fractionation. Iran and Iranian scientists are developing a modern plasma fractionation plant in order to supply your country's demands. I think that this is a very important aspect concerning Blood Safety and it should

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be supported by all related agencies in the world.

Once again, though far from your country today, I wish you all success in this very important conference. The Brazilian people are always smiling and optimistic, even when things are not doing exactly as we planned. It is with this spirit that I come to you, with a smile in my face to express how proud I am, as President of ISBT about the development of Blood Transfusion in Iran. Well done, my good Iranian friends. I salute you!

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