

Ministerial Declaration for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases

Gathered in Mexico City on the occasion of the High-Level Regional Consultation of the Americas against NCDs and Obesity, We, the Ministers of Health of the Americas and their Representatives:

Noting with concern that non-communicable diseases are the leading cause of mortality, premature mortality and disability, comprising an epidemic in the Americas;

Underscoring the need for concerted action and a coordinated response at the national, sub-regional, regional and global levels in order to adequately address the developmental and other challenges posed by non-communicable diseases, in particular the four most prominent non-communicable diseases, namely, cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes;

Considering that in 2007, 28 million deaths caused by non-communicable diseases occurred in low and middle income countries, representing 80% of the global burden of non-communicable diseases mortality; and that in the same year the estimated total deaths in the Americas was 5.1 million, of which 3.9 million (76%) were related to all non-communicable diseases, and 60% were due to cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes;

Concerned about rising levels of obesity in the Americas, that affected approximately 139 million people in 2005 (25% of adults) and are projected to grow rapidly to 289 million by 2015 (39%); and deeply concerned about rising rates of obesity in children. Noting that obesity is associated with higher health costs and reduced productivity, and is a strong risk for diabetes, cardio-vascular diseases, cancers and disability. Recognizing that it has complex causes rooted in social determinants, such as poverty, less education, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity, and starting as early during pregnancy and infancy;

Noting that the most prominent non-communicable diseases are linked to common risk factors, namely, tobacco use, alcohol abuse, an unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and environmental carcinogens, being aware that these risk factors have economic, social, gender, political, behavioral and environmental determinants, and in this regard stressing the need for a multisectoral response to combat non-communicable diseases;

Considering the increasing impact of the direct costs of non-communicable diseases on health systems, including the high cost of the negative impact of NCDs such as chronic renal disease in the Central American Region), the impoverishment of households affected, as well as the loss of productivity that has negative impact on the development; and recalling that the World Economic Forum Global Risk Reports (2009 and 2010) identified non-communicable diseases as a global risk in both the developing and developed worlds, with a potential economic impact equal to the impact of the global fiscal crisis over the next ten years;

Expressing profound concern that non communicable diseases and their socio-economic impacts are undermining the efforts which the international community is otherwise exerting for achieving internationally agreed development goals including Millennium Development Goals;

Noting the call to consider integrating indicators to monitor the magnitude, the trend and the socio-economic impact of non-communicable diseases into the Millennium Development Goals monitoring system;

Reaffirming the resolutions and decisions adopted by the World Health Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases; as well as the commitment of Member States on the implementation of the 2008–2013 Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases; the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health; and the World Health Organization global strategies to reduce the harmful use of alcohol;

Remembering the findings of the World Health Organization Commission on Social Determinants of Health reports, stressing the need of involving all sectors of society including the whole government, civil society and local communities, business and international organizations;

Reaffirming further the resolutions adopted by the Pan-American Health Organization on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases: CSP26.R15, Public Health Response to Chronic Diseases; CD42/9, Cardiovascular Disease, especially Hypertension; CD47/17, Regional Strategy on an Integrated Approach to the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases Including Diet, Physical Activity, and Health; CD47/18, Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Nutrition in Health and Development, 2006-20015; CD48/10, Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control;

Recalling the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly 64/265, of 13 May 2010 that convenes a high-level meeting of the General Assembly in September 2011, with the participation of Heads of State and Government, on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases; and the United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/238 on the scope, modalities, format and organization of the said high-level meeting;

Taking note with appreciation the declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean Community entitled, “Declaration of Port-of-Spain: Uniting to stop the epidemic of chronic non-communicable diseases”, adopted in September 2007;

Taking note with appreciation also the statement of the Commonwealth Heads of Government on action to combat non-communicable diseases, adopted in November 2009;

Also taking note of the initiative of the Russian Federation, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, to host the Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Non-communicable Disease Control in Moscow in April 2011;

The Ministers of Health and their Representatives:

Recognize that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is still a distant goal; and remain fully convinced that the burdens of non-communicable diseases can be reduced by comprehensive and integrated preventative and control strategies;

Agreed the problem of obesity, especially childhood obesity must be addressed particularly to identify its specific causes. We commit to facilitate the participation of sectors such as education, agriculture, commerce, media, food industry, local governments and others, along with health authorities, in order to mitigate and prevent obesogenic environments and to contribute to the prevention of overweight and obesity. Further as per WHA63.14 we agreed to take necessary measures in a stepwise or comprehensive approach to implement the recommendations on the marketing of food and non alcoholic beverages to children, while taking into account existing legislation and policies as appropriate;

Promote recognition of the rising incidence of non-communicable diseases on the national as well the international development agenda, and to encourage international development partners to raise the level of priority accorded to non communicable diseases in their development cooperation programs;

Further recommend participation by Heads of State and Government in the high-level meeting of the General Assembly in September 2011, on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

Call on the World Health Organization to propose to the member States targets for its Action Plan on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases against which countries' progress will be measured, oriented to their future inclusion in the MDG s.

Promote the development of policies, enabling environments and supporting community initiatives, to enhance basic preventive measures such as: the inclusion of physical activity into all aspects of daily life, drinking plain water, healthy diet, eliminating exposure to tobacco smoke and mitigating the effects of the harmful use of alcohol. Reaffirm also our commitment to implementing the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and encouraging ratification in the case of States that have not yet done so;

Reaffirm our commitment to strengthen and / or reorient the policies and programs for prevention and control of non-communicable diseases through: action on the social determinants of health and behavioral risk factors for non-communicable diseases; prioritization of cost-effective interventions that have the greatest impact according to scientific evidence; the inclusion of gender, intercultural and community perspectives;

Provide leadership in promoting active participation of all sectors of government and civil society in implementing measures to reduce risk factors and promote preventive actions related to non-communicable diseases; as well as exercise leadership to promote the development of standards and regulatory actions as appropriate, on the supply and advertising of food, transport and mobility systems, social, urban, work and school environments to promote the reduction of risk factors on the population;

Promote collaborative efforts and partnerships among key multisectoral stakeholders in the public and private sectors, including from non-governmental organizations, and health-related sectors such as education, agriculture, communications, industry, finance, public works, trade, transportation, urban planning, environment, sport, and parks and recreation in order to advance the non-communicable disease and obesity agendas, and to encourage stakeholder involvement in the development of policies and programs;

Promote access to comprehensive and cost-effective, prevention, treatment and care for integrated management of NCDs, INCLUDING INTERALIA, increased access to affordable, safe, effective and high-quality medicines.

Aware that surveillance is key to effective combating non-communicable diseases, we commit to strengthening national health information systems as appropriate and the monitoring of non-communicable diseases and related risk factors;

Support and facilitate information sharing and communication on policies and practices related to non-communicable diseases and their risk factors and social determinants, through existing regional entities, frameworks and mechanisms;

Signed in Mexico City, on February 25th 2011, in English and Spanish, both texts being equally authentic.

Signed by: (Sarah Hawley, CANADA)

John Barbosa da Silva Jr. (JARBAS BARBOSA DA SILVA JR - BRAZIL)

Therese Baptiste-Jorgels (Therese Baptiste-Jorgels - TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO)


Carlos Cuadra Ramos. (Ministerio de Salud Nio.)


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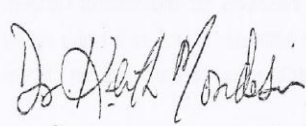

For Minister of Health
Ann Peters
GRENADA

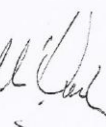

Representante MSPAS
Guatemala.

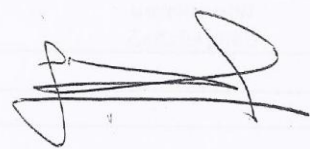

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For Minister of Health
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
Ministerio de Salud El Salvador 
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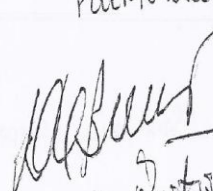

Hon. PABLO MARIN 
Minister of Health
BELIZE




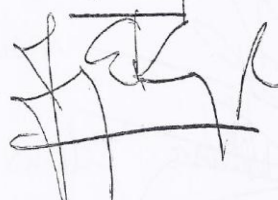
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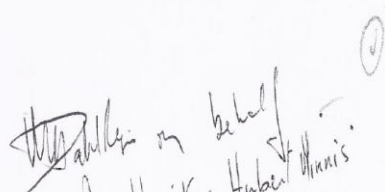
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Fdo: Roberto Sabido Bermudez^①
Presidente de la Agencia Española de
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02/25/11

Juli J. Santamaría N. 

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Vice Ministro de Salud Pública

