



# Shanghai Declaration on promoting health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

On 21–24 of November 2016 in Shanghai, China, we formally recognize that health and well-being are essential to achieving the United Nations Development Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We reaffirm health as a universal right, an essential resource for everyday living, a shared social goal and a political priority for all countries. The SDGs establish a duty to invest in health, ensure universal health coverage and reduce health inequities for people of all ages. We are determined to leave no one behind.

## We will promote health through action on all the SDGs

Healthy lives and increased well-being for people at all ages can be only achieved by promoting health through all the SDGs and by engaging the whole of society in the health development process. The transformative, practical, high impact and evidence-based strategies developed in the wake of the *Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion* provide us with a compass. We confirm their enduring relevance. This means acting decisively on all determinants of health, empowering people to increase control over their health and ensuring people centred health systems.

## We will make bold political choices for health

We face a new global context for health promotion. People's health can no longer be separated from the health of the planet, and economic growth alone does not guarantee improvement in a population's health. Health security challenges are on the rise and powerful commercial forces work to counteract health. The wide spectrum of global health crises is a testimony of these rapid changes and requires an integrative response.

Unacceptable health inequities require political action across many different sectors and regions. They also require global collective action. If we are to leave no one behind this includes determined action on the rights of women, people on the move and of the increasing number of people affected by humanitarian and environmental crises. We will prioritize good governance, local action through cities and communities, and people's empowerment by promoting health literacy. We will place a high priority on innovation and development to support people's enjoyment of a healthy life and give precedence to the health of the most vulnerable.



## Good governance is crucial for health

Policies for health and social justice benefit the whole of society. Failures in governance are too often detrimental to action to promote health, at the national and global levels. The interdependence and universality of the SDGs offer great potential benefits from investing in all determinants of health.

We recognize that governments have a fundamental responsibility at national, local and global levels to address the damaging effects of unsustainable production and consumption. This includes offsetting economic policies that create unemployment and unsafe working conditions, and enable marketing, investment and trade that compromise health. We also call on business leaders to demonstrate good corporate governance – profit must not stand above people's health. This is of particular concern in fighting the NCDs epidemic.

We commit to:

- apply fully the mechanisms available to government to protect health and promote well-being through public policies;
- strengthen legislation, regulation, and taxation of unhealthy commodities;
- implement fiscal policies as a powerful tool to enable new investments in health and well-being – including strong public health systems;
- introduce universal health coverage as an efficient way to achieve both health and financial protection;
- ensure transparency and social accountability and enable the broad engagement of civil society;
- strengthen global governance to better address cross border health issues;
- consider the growing importance and value of traditional medicine, which could contribute to
- improved health outcomes, including those in the SDGs.

## Cities and communities are critical settings for health

Health is created in the settings of everyday life – in the neighbourhoods and communities where people live, love, work, shop and play. Health is one of the most effective markers of any city's successful sustainable development and contributes to make cities inclusive, safe and resilient for the whole population.

Together with city leaders we must address the toxic combination of rapid rural-to-urban migration, global population movements, economic stagnation, high unemployment and poverty as well as environmental deterioration and pollution. We will not accept that city residents in poor areas suffer ill-health disproportionately and have difficulty accessing health services

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