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American States



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## DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT: STRENGTHENING PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCDs) THROUGH COOPERATIVE ACTION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

*Issued by: the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the World Bank (WB)*

We, representatives of the inter-American organizations and associated organizations and agencies participating in the Launch of the Inter-American Task Force on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) on June 17th, 2015;

RECOGNIZING the enormous social and economic burden posed by noncommunicable diseases - especially cardiovascular disease, cancers, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes - that are responsible for 80% of all deaths in the Americas, and 36% of these occur prematurely in persons aged less than 70 years; and pose a grave threat to regional and national development; and that there are large inequities in access to prevention and treatment services for NCDs within countries and between countries in the region;

RECOGNIZING the increasing prevalence of these diseases is driven by social determinants and that a disproportionate burden of NCDs falls on socially and economically vulnerable populations;

RECOGNIZING that the prevention and control of NCDs mandates a response from the whole of government as well as the whole of society;

RECALLING the political commitments declared for NCDs in the Declaration of Port of Spain during the Fifth Summit of the Americas, in 2009, the United Nations High Level Meeting on NCD Prevention and Control, in 2011, as well as the endorsement of a regional NCD Plan of Action by the ministers of health of the region in 2013;

RECOGNIZING that cost-effective, evidence-based interventions are available for NCD prevention and control, which include public policy, the application of universal health coverage, including strengthening health systems based on primary care, and provision of essential medicines and technologies;

COGNIZANT OF the need for regional coordination and leadership across all sectors, in support of national efforts to reduce the burden of NCDs through addressing their risk factors including tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity;



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FULLY CONVINCED THAT the burden of NCDs can be significantly reduced and the global goal of a 25% reduction in premature NCD mortality by 2025 achieved through the promotion of comprehensive prevention and control interventions at the individual, family, community, national and regional levels, and through policies and programs across all relevant sectors of government and society;

COMMIT TO:

- Provide our full support for the establishment and effective operationalization of an Inter-American Task Force on NCDs, composed of inter-American organizations and associated international organizations and agencies, and led by the Pan American Health Organization, to intensify the response to NCDs across relevant sectors of government and society in the region.
- Ensure that the work of the Task Force is coordinated with that of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on NCDs, and is coordinated with global, regional, sub-regional and national actions.
- Engage with relevant sectors of governments and society, and at the highest political levels, for an intensified and sustained comprehensive response to NCDs.
- Advocate for, and support the application of universal health coverage and universal access including strengthening of health systems, towards preventing and treating those at risk and affected by NCDs, particularly among the most vulnerable of our populations.
- Take into account the gender aspects of the prevention and control of NCDs.
- Provide opportunities, such as through Caribbean Wellness Day and Wellness Week for the Americas, for comprehensive public education and community awareness in support of wellness, healthy life-style changes, improved self-management of NCDs in order to better prevent and control NCDs.

June 17th, 2015  
Washington, D.C.