



Panama City Declaration on Healthy Municipalities, Cities, and Communities of the Region of the Americas

21–22 November 2022

Over the years, local governments in the Region of the Americas have been involved in different initiatives aimed at strengthening public policies that have an impact on the health of their populations. These initiatives have facilitated the sharing of experiences, capacity building, and the adoption of innovative policies. The role of governments in health has benefited from enormous opportunities for intersectoral action and the promotion of community participation in the design and implementation of public policies. The COVID-19 pandemic shed even clearer light on the key role of local governments in jointly and comprehensively addressing the social determinants of health to impact health, well-being, and equity.

The **V Regional Meeting of Mayors for Healthy Municipalities, Cities, and Communities**, organized with the collaboration of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), focused on consolidating the regional movement of Healthy Municipalities, Cities, and Communities (HMCC) of the Americas in order to promote local government actions aimed at health and well-being with equity in the post-pandemic context.

The meeting was held within the framework of the *Strategy and Plan of Action on Health Promotion within the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals 2019-2030* and the *Policy for Recovering Progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals with Equity through Action on the Social Determinants of Health and Intersectoral Work*, which highlights the key role of local governments in promoting health, well-being, and equity. It also renewed the international commitments assumed in the Declaration of Santiago, Chile (2016), the Shanghai Consensus on Healthy Cities (2016), the Act of Valdivia (2017), the Declaration of Acapulco (2018), the Commitment of Santiago, Cuba (2018), the Declaration of Paipa (2019), and the agreements of the IV Virtual Meeting of Mayors of Healthy Municipalities, Cities, and Communities (2021).

During the V Meeting, regional criteria for HMCCs were presented, as well as a governance plan for the HMCC movement. Mayors, representatives of ministries of health, and PAHO/WHO shared experiences of working in networks and municipalities. There was also discussion of opportunities to use the movement as a platform for sharing and as a network for mayors in the Region to strengthen local initiatives in health, equity, and well-being. Currently relevant topics such as COVID-19 vaccination were included.

During the meeting, the Statute of the HMCC movement was adopted and its Executive Committee was elected, marking a milestone in the consolidation of the structure of the movement and giving it a platform for its initiatives and institutional support to better meet its objectives. With this structure, the movement will achieve greater autonomy while strengthening bonds between its members, reaffirming itself as a strategic instrument in the implementation of the *Strategy and Plan of Action on Health Promotion within the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals 2019-2030* and the *Policy for Recovering Progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals*.



In this framework, we, the leaders of municipal governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, and Uruguay, present at the V Regional Meeting of Mayors for Healthy Municipalities, Cities, and Communities held on 21-22 November 2022, in Panama City, Panama, agree to:

1. Adopt the Regional Criteria for Healthy Municipalities, Cities, and Communities
2. Adopt the Statute of the HMCC Movement
3. Strengthen the Healthy Municipalities, Cities, and Communities movement in the Region of the Americas by incorporating more local governments with the political will to promote health and well-being and act on the social determinants of health through *health in all policies*.
4. Strengthen national networks of healthy municipalities in the Region of the Americas