

ENSURING NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND: THE SAN MARINO STATEMENT

Sixth high-level meeting of the small countries, San Marino, Republic of San Marino, 31 March–2 April 2019

We, the Ministers and delegates of the 11 Member States in the WHO European Region with populations of less than two million inhabitants, met in San Marino, Republic of San Marino, on 31 March–2 April 2019, to participate in the Sixth high-level meeting of the small countries: “Equity and sustainable development: keeping people at the centre”.

We reconfirm our previous commitments to implementing the core principles, approaches and values of the WHO European policy framework for health and well-being, Health 2020, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and WHO’s 13th General Programme of Work 2019–2023.

We recognize that health equity is a core value in these interconnected frameworks, emphasizing the right to the highest attainable state of health for all and the importance of equitable access to universal health coverage for all.

We also recognize that inequities in health are caused by the systematic influence of adverse social, economic, environmental and commercial determinants that are unevenly distributed across populations. The resulting disadvantage is compounded by cumulative unhealthful exposures that perpetuate the existing health inequities. Progress will only be achieved if we act upon all these determinants in a collaborative, coherent manner.

It is our joint responsibility to achieve health equity and we will work wholeheartedly to ensure that everyone realizes their right to health.

We emphasize that governments, health systems and public authorities, at all levels, have a role to play in ensuring that health equity is central to their policies, strategies and plans. It is our joint responsibility to close the coverage and access gaps, enhance people’s participation in decisions that affect their health, reduce exposure to discrimination and stigma, and reduce differential exposure to commercial pressures that polarize inequities in health.

We recognize that the strategies on the health and well-being for every human being in the WHO European Region provide a strong framework for addressing health inequities driven by the interrelationships between gender norms and roles and other determinants of health.

Making progress towards ensuring healthy, prosperous lives for all requires systematic action, including scaling up and adapting what works. It also involves generating alliances and solutions that accelerate change and remove barriers to progress.

Measuring and monitoring health equity is key to speeding up progress towards inclusive development and prosperity in the WHO European Region. Data that can identify inequities in our small countries can enable, motivate and empower decision-makers and the public to support meaningful policy dialogue and evidence-informed policy-making where equity is central to sustainable growth and development. It is a priority in our countries to adequately invest in health-information systems and monitoring processes as they are the foundations of our health systems’ ability to address health inequities.

We commit to providing access to universal health coverage with an emphasis on supporting populations and people who traditionally experience barriers to accessing such coverage so that no one is left behind.

These accelerated actions are essential to reducing inequities in health and well-being.

We recognize that health systems have a crucial role to play in driving sustainable development at the local and national levels. We note that health systems can use socially responsible approaches to employment and procurement practices to improve the communities in which they are based. Building safe and resilient communities is part of sustainable and inclusive development and is crucial to accelerating progress towards health and prosperity for all.

At the Sixth high-level meeting of the small countries, we agreed on the importance of:

- addressing the causes of health inequities and the pathways that lead to them – the “drivers” of health inequity;
- ensuring a minimum set of conditions needed to be able to live a healthy life;
- progressing towards healthy, prosperous lives for all;
- improving living conditions for all through a basket of universal and targeted measures that match the scale and the level of disadvantage.

With this statement, we, the Ministers and high-level delegates of the small countries, commit to:

- leaving no one behind and supporting each other through enhanced intersectoral cooperation and coordination;
- strengthening our policy and governance for health and well-being;
- working across sectors and adopting whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches;
- leading by example and investing in expanding partnerships and bringing different sectors and stakeholders together to address health inequities;
- working in partnership to create healthy places for life, where all people feel safe, and have a sense of hope and belonging in their neighbourhoods and shared spaces;
- engaging citizens to help them understand the health inequities existing in their own countries, and how to reduce them;
- adequately invest in health information systems and monitoring processes to address health inequalities.

We commit to supporting the creation of a new European equity alliance in the European Region where countries, regions and municipalities can participate in dialogues, test new solutions, develop innovation sites and exchange best practice in improving health equity.

Equity is central to sustainable development. In implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we, the Ministers and high-level delegates of the small countries, commit to placing equity at the centre of all our policies.



Andorra



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Iceland



Latvia



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San Marino



Slovenia

