DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

ALMATY ACCLAMATION OF MAYORS:

CITIES AT THE FRONTLINE OF HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL

WHO European Healthy Cities Network
Summit of Mayors
Almaty, Kazakhstan, 23–24 October 2018
Reaffirming the commitment

1. We, the participants in the WHO Healthy Cities Summit of Mayors, through this Almaty Acclamation of Mayors, on 24 October 2018, reaffirm our commitment, 40 years later, to the values and principles of the primary health care approach enshrined in the Declaration of Alma-Ata (1978), the definition of health set out in the WHO Constitution, and the notion that fostering people’s health and well-being is one of the most important goals of society, requiring engagement from all sectors. We recognize that the role of cities, urban places and local government is of the utmost importance to achieving this goal.

Leading by example

2. We acknowledge that cities contribute to the pursuit of this goal in many ways, including by creating the physical, social, cultural and economic places and environments that facilitate improved health and well-being; by supporting the primary health-care and local services, including social and education services, that contribute to the development of human capital; and by growing and nurturing thriving, empowered and resilient communities that are engaged and involved in the decisions that affect them and their future. We will lead by example.

Defending social justice and sustainable development

3. We uphold the need to promote and defend equity, social justice and gender equality and to leave no one behind, as called for in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Social justice and sustainable development cannot be achieved without cities and local governments. We will be their champions.

Realizing the vision

4. Through this statement, we reaffirm our commitment to the Copenhagen Consensus of Mayors: Healthier and Happier Cities for All that was adopted at the WHO European Healthy Cities Network Summit of Mayors held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 12–13 February 2018, and the Shanghai Consensus on Healthy Cities, adopted at the 9th Global Conference on Health Promotion held in Shanghai, China, on 21–24 November 2016. These place cities, urban places and local governments at the centre of the pursuit of improved health and well-being for all. We will be the implementers.

Primary health care is the foundation of universal health coverage and attaining the SDGs, and cities are at the forefront

5. We, the mayors and political leaders of cities, urban places and local governments, commit to contributing to the strengthening and reorienting of health systems, based on the primary health care approach, in order to achieve universal health coverage (UHC), overcome inequities and barriers to access, improve health, and attain the SDGs. The primary health care approach reinforces the ability of countries, cities and communities to achieve UHC as outlined in the 2030 Agenda and several high-level declarations and documents subsequently adopted at the global and regional levels.
6. Healthy Cities put the town hall at the heart of health and well-being and primary health care. We commit to ensuring that town halls throughout the WHO Healthy Cities Network strive to support the Declaration from the Global Conference on Primary Health Care, held on 25–27 October 2018 in Astana, Kazakhstan, to ensure that it is successful in its bold ambitions.

7. We emphasize that UHC – ensuring that all people and communities receive the quality services they need, and are protected from health threats without financial hardship – is a central pillar of WHO’s Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023, and cannot be achieved without collaboration with and support from cities, urban places and local governments, and we commit to facilitating the necessary drive towards UHC throughout our communities across the globe.

8. We, the mayors and political leaders of cities, urban places and local governments, commit to addressing the determinants of health and prioritizing the most vulnerable members of society, notably women and children, those affected by emergencies, refugees and migrants, and marginalized, stigmatized and minority populations. We further commit to investing in health and well-being and supporting strengthened systems of governance for health and well-being for all, with enhanced transparency and accountability.

**Healthy cities: the golden child of Alma-Ata**

9. We pay tribute to the role of the 1978 Declaration of Alma-Ata on primary health care in the birth of the WHO Healthy Cities movement, and note the significance of reaffirming our commitment to the principles of the Declaration on its 40th anniversary, in the same year that the Healthy Cities movement celebrates its 30th year. Neither can be achieved without support from the other. Through Healthy Cities, the legacy of Alma-Ata and primary health care lives on.

10. The Healthy Cities movement is based on the values and principles that also underpin primary health care: equity, justice, community engagement, empowerment, participation and collaboration. It provides a vehicle for ensuring that these values permeate cities that are members of the movement and that they are transmitted through the WHO Healthy Cities Network across the European Region.

11. Achieving the commitments made in the Alma-Ata Declaration on primary health care requires engagement with people and communities. Cities, urban places and local governments are closer to the people than authorities at the national level. It is through our cities and local governments that we can engage, empower and involve all people in the decisions that affect their health and well-being. We will use all means available to us, including public services, to reach out to and engage people.

**Healthy cities: From local to global and global to local**

12. Healthy cities implement global policies at the local level and ensure that local priorities are recognized at the global level. Cities are global actors, and it is necessary to ensure that there is coherence horizontally across government, and vertically between all levels of government, from the
international level through to the city, municipal and local levels, as this is where implementation takes place and interaction with people occurs. The WHO Healthy Cities Network facilitates this cycle from global to local to global.

**We support the call for immediate action, because together we can create a healthier and happier future**

13. Forty years ago, the Declaration of Alma-Ata inspired a generation of health leaders and professionals with a shared commitment to achieve Health for All. Through this statement, we fully reiterate and stand behind the Call to Action in the Declaration from the 2018 Global Conference on Primary Health Care, and acknowledge our central role in fulfilling it.

14. With this Almaty Acclamation of Mayors, we the participants in the WHO Healthy Cities Summit of Mayors, a pre-conference event taking place before the Global Conference on Primary Health Care, to be held on 25–27 October 2018 in Astana, Kazakhstan, support the call for coordinated national and international action, as well as increased and aligned technical and financial resources, in support of a renewed commitment to implementing primary health care policies, strategies and plans.

15. We, the mayors and political leaders of cities, urban places, and local governments:

- will support immediate action on the Declaration from the 2018 Global Conference on Primary Health Care, in coordination with WHO and the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, engaging with leaders and all relevant sectors and levels of government, United Nations agencies, other international organizations, bilateral and multilateral funding agencies and donors, academia, and civil society;

- urge international development partners, and national partners, subnational and local partners, and civil society to work together to enhance transparency and accountability;

- will work with all other levels of government in order to achieve health and well-being for all, leaving no one behind.

**Now is the time to act. We cannot afford to fail.**
The WHO Regional Office for Europe

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations created in 1948 with the primary responsibility for international health matters and public health. The WHO Regional Office for Europe is one of six regional offices throughout the world, each with its own programme geared to the particular health conditions of the countries it serves.

Member States

Albania
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czechia
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Tajikistan
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
United Kingdom
Uzbekistan

World Health Organization
Regional Office for Europe

UN City, Marmorvej 51, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark
Tel: +45 45 33 70 00   Fax: +45 45 33 70 01
Email: eurocontact@who.int
Website: www.euro.who.int