



**WHO European Healthy Cities Network
Summit of Mayors
Copenhagen, Denmark
12–13 February 2018**

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Scope and purpose

The future lies with cities: socially, culturally, environmentally and politically, they are becoming more important than ever before. They are complex places, with multiple tiers of government, numerous sectors and broad ranges of stakeholders, but are thus also uniquely placed to provide leadership for health and well-being, given the capacity of local government to play a leading role in addressing the determinants of health and well-being, inequities and sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development – adopted by the United Nations in September 2015 and supported in the WHO European Region by the implementation of the Health 2020 strategy and policy framework for health and well-being – provides a renewed impetus for taking this forward.

The role of local government is increasingly at the forefront of policy in Europe. Trust in traditional models of politics and institutions is in decline, while the demands for greater accountability and transparency in policy and the public sector are increasing. In this context, there is a growing sense of urgency in the calls for local government to lead the way in delivering a future that is sustainable for both people and the planet.

The WHO European Healthy Cities Network was launched in 1988 as a political, cross-cutting and intersectoral initiative in direct collaboration with cities across the European Region. It is now a leading political and strategic vehicle for promoting whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, strengthening participation and contributing to empowerment and resilience, with the goal of improving health and well-being for all and reducing health inequalities. Health and well-being are consistently identified as a priority concern for populations and local government therefore has a key opportunity to fulfil the growing demand for healthier and more inclusive and sustainable societies, with strengthened accountability at the local, regional and global levels.

The ability of cities to deliver on the call for a healthier, more equitable and sustainable future, requires strong political leadership, and it is this political leadership that is a driver for both the success and sustainability of the Network. Politicians represent the heart of the Network and, by working together, they can ensure the Network reaches its potential as a key partner for WHO in implementing global policy frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The strength and influence of the Network lies in the collaborative strength of its political leaders, and it is within this context that the Network is developing a renewed political vision for the next phase of the network, starting in 2019. The Regional Director has appointed a Political Vision Group to represent the diversity of the region and to help draft the political vision for the future of the Network, which will be adopted at the Summit of Mayors.

The Summit will bring together political leaders from across the European Region to discuss, debate and shape the future political direction of the next phase of work, aligning the Network to global and regional policy processes and frameworks, as well as ensuring it is nationally relevant across the network. It will culminate in a renewed political vision for the future of the Network, in the shape of a Consensus, which will affirm the political commitment of cities to their leading role in creating a healthier and happier future and will act as a political mandate for the Network for the coming years.

Objectives

The Summit has four key objectives:

- 1) to agree on a renewed political vision that presents a shared aspiration for cities, placing reduced inequalities and improved health and well-being for all at its core, and to further agree on the journey required to achieve this;
- 2) to identify how cities can better work together to respond to cultural, social, economic and environmental changes in societies, so as to meet and overcome the current challenges to achieving sustainable development, improved health and well-being for all and reduced inequalities;
- 3) to agree on how cities can contribute to improved health and well-being for all locally, nationally, regionally and globally, through improved health diplomacy and new forms of multilateral governance that respond to globalization and by working together to prevail over common challenges;
- 4) to commit to strengthening the leadership role of the Network in the ongoing global conversations about people, the planet, prosperity, peace and achieving sustainable development and health and well-being for all.

Outcomes

The Summit will work towards four key outcomes:

- 1) to adopt a renewed political vision that presents a shared aspiration for cities, placing reduced inequalities and improved health and well-being for all at its core, and the journey required to achieve it;
- 2) to identify and agree on actions for the Network that will reduce health inequalities and improve health and well-being for all;

- 3) to agree on role of the European Healthy Cities Network in the global processes on sustainable development and health and well-being for all;
- 4) to adopt the Copenhagen Consensus of Mayors on Healthier and Happier Cities for All.