

Commitment to Action Santiago

Palacio de la Moneda, Santiago, Chile

Leaving no woman, child, or adolescent behind in Latin America and the Caribbean:

Reducing health inequities in countries

We, Ministers of State from Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Uruguay, Belize's Special Envoy for Women and Children¹, Regional Directors of United Nations Agencies, Ambassadors of Canada and Norway, Regional Coordinating Mechanisms of Latin America and the Caribbean, and CARICOM, Cooperating and Bilateral Agencies and academics invited by the President of the Republic of Chile Michelle Bachelet and Co-Chair of the High Level Advisory Group of the Every Woman Every Child movement, gathered in Santiago, Chile on 3 July, 2017, present the Commitment to Action of Santiago toward the implementation of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030) in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Taking into account previous global and regional commitments, such as the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health (2011), the Declaration of Panama (2013), the Montevideo Consensus for Population and Development (2013), the 2030 Agenda, Beijing+20 (2015), the High Level Political Declaration on HIV (2016), and the Montevideo Strategy (2016), all of which focus on the reduction of health inequities, recognize the impact of determinants on health, promote human rights according to related human rights conventions and emphasize the importance of multi-sectoral action and community participation in this endeavor.

Recognizing that health is influenced by a complex interplay of biological, physical, social, economic, cultural, and environmental factors, the Commitment to Action of Santiago will aim to reinvigorate the progress made in the Region to improve women's, children's and adolescents' health, using multi-sectoral approach to reduce existing health inequality gaps.

Recognizing that the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, with its ambitious yet achievable targets to ultimately reach the Sustainable Development Goals 2016-2030 (SDGs), offers countries an additional avenue to fulfill their commitments towards realizing the right to the highest attainable standard of health for all women, children and adolescents.

Understanding that the failure to reduce existing health inequities, which are framed by wider structural inequalities between and within countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, pose a great threat to achieving the 2030 goals in the Region, the Commitment to Action of Santiago will catalyze action towards achieving the objectives of the Global Strategy for Women, Children and Adolescents: Survive, Thrive and Transform in Latin America and the Caribbean. These overarching objectives aim to end preventable deaths, ensure the right to health, integral development and well-being, and expand enabling environments to close existing gaps.

Closing the Health Equity Gap

To ensure that every woman, child and adolescent in Latin America and the Caribbean not only survives, but thrives in a transformative environment, the Commitment to Action of Santiago will:

¹ Spouse of the Prime Minister of Belize, Mrs. Kim Simplis Barrow



Reduce health inequities in line with human rights standards and principles – with special attention to groups with high vulnerability to social exclusion such as indigenous and afro-descendent women, children and adolescents, those with disabilities, those living in rural areas, and those who are poor.

Consider and respond to structural social determinants of health from the perspective of the life course, particularly those related to health and development, with a gender focus, on women's, children's, and adolescents'.

Emphasize that equity is a substantive axis and part of all targets related to the goals of survive, thrive and transform, and as such requires close participatory monitoring, so that no one is left behind, with a particular focus on early childhood.

Strengthen political will and multi-sectoral efforts by governments and civil society organizations in order to eliminate all forms of violence, including violence against women and girls, and promote gender equality.

Prioritize quality as a key and indispensable dimension of the goals of universal health coverage and access, as well as prioritizing the strengthening of health systems accordingly, including the private sector.

Ensure synergy, coordination and partnership among stakeholders involved in pro-equity initiatives for women's, children's and adolescents' health in the region.

Strengthen the cooperation between countries of the Region to approach the inequities in health in their specific context, exchanging experiences and practices.

Develop a road map that shows how the Global Strategy objectives, goals and areas of action will be implemented taking into account the diverse contexts of the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

Promote a research agenda oriented to generate evidence and recommendations for action at regional and national levels.

Provide a human resources development strategy with the necessary profiles to move forward according to the needs of each country or territory.

Invest the necessary resources to advance the Global Strategy and close existing gaps in countries

Include participatory accountability mechanisms.

Encourage legislative frameworks that guarantee rights, inclusion and non-discrimination in public policies.

Promote information systems disaggregated by vulnerability and other significant variables for the analysis of equity.

As a group we are the first ones called to spread the word and spread the Global Strategy throughout all corners of our nations. We are the first to act, to convene, to radiate the fundamental thing is that no woman, child or adolescent is left behind and they are the transformers of their societies.

Santiago de Chile, 3 July 2017