



World Federation of Public Health Associations
Fédération mondiale des associations de santé publique
Federación mundial de las asociaciones de salud pública

The Addis Ababa Declaration on Global Health Equity: A Call to Action

More than 3,000 delegates from approximately 120 countries assembled at the 13th World Congress on Public Health in Addis Ababa from the 23rd to 27th of April 2012.

The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) has listened to the many wise voices, the rich range of experiences, and the spectrum of viewpoints on many important issues. Although diverse, we spoke with a united voice.

At our World Congress we collectively called for immediate action to not only promote, but to actually achieve health equity for all in the shortest time possible. The voices at the Congress re-affirmed the 2009 Istanbul Declaration on 'Health, the First Human Right' as well as the 2011 Rio Political Declaration on the Social Determinants of Health and the 2012 Bangkok Statement on Universal Health Coverage.

We recognise the ever-changing context within which we operate and the many acute challenges to the achievement of global health equity. In particular, we are cognisant of the global economic crisis and its impact on individuals, families, communities and countries. The WFPHA calls on all governments and stakeholders to safeguard and promote the essential values of public health. These include, but are not restricted to: good governance, solidarity, equity and fairness, empowerment and participation, and social justice to achieve the highest possible standards of health for all.

On behalf of its member associations, the WFPHA pledges to:

1. Promote and facilitate the linkage between the academic and public health association communities, in cooperation with WHO, for innovative research and the generation of evidence to expand the knowledge base about the social determinants of health and health equity;
2. Advocate for the utilisation of evidence as the basis for formulating healthy public policy and informing practice to reduce health inequity;
3. Make health equity an integral part of local, national and global policy and development agendas and to ensure that structural issues such as food insecurity, rapid urbanization, migration, man-made environmental degradation, conflict and militarization, climate change and economic crisis are taken into consideration;
4. Advocate for equitable access to high quality health services;
5. Advocate for fair trade in all commodities that affect human health;
6. Advocate for and encourage linkages between public health actors and communities as a means of fully engaging people at the front line in our discussions and to be accountable to them in our actions;
7. Give a voice through its member associations to frontline health practitioners and community workers;
8. Strengthen partnerships with other international federations and organizations as a means of taking common action on global public health priorities;
9. Strengthen networking and collaboration among national and regional public health associations to facilitate the sharing of experience and the building of capacity to enhance both influence on policy and action on health equity; and,
10. Bring to the 14th World Congress on Public Health, to take place in Kolkata (India) in February 2015, a progress report on how the public health association movement has achieved these aforementioned actions and contributed to achieving Healthy People – Healthy Environments.



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We, the WFPHA, call on the World Health Organization to take up its leadership role on global public health and to revisit all the MDGs from a public health perspective to ‘close the gap’.

We, the WFPHA, call on all governments and all parties to recognize and live up to their responsibility for global health equity. This includes working across sectors and disciplines and in true partnership with communities to:

1. Promote and attain social justice and equity in health by acting through a ‘Social Determinants of Health’ approach;
2. Accelerate the attainment of national and international development goals by building and redistributing resources to strengthen international, national and local capacity and leadership in public health;
3. Ensure that better context-specific, comprehensive and equitable targets covering universal health coverage and health for all are integrated into and made more visible within the MDGs as soon as possible;
4. Enhance and strengthen, both numerically and in capability, the public health workforce, in addition to developing new and effective strategies to retain qualified health professionals;
5. Combat fraud and corruption, as these are major determinants of health that affect all, but especially the poor and vulnerable;
6. Recognize physical and mental disabilities and injury prevention as critical components of a public health approach to health equity; and,
7. Fulfill their financial pledges in respect of the MDGs and to, in addition, fulfill their pledges with respect to the Paris Declaration and to the political declarations on Non-Communicable Diseases and the Social Determinants of Health.

We, the WFPHA, call on the various communities represented at this 13th World Congress on Public Health to engage with their governments and other stakeholders, including their national public health associations, to formulate and put into place the conditions that support healthy environments and healthy communities, and the attainment of health equity.