

First Meeting of ASPA Ministers of Health

DECLARATION OF LIMA

ASPA HEALTH

Lima, April 4, 2014

We, the Ministers of Health and High Officials of the Health Sector of South America and Arab Countries, gathered in the First Meeting of ASPA Ministers of Health on 4 April 2014, in Lima, by invitation received from the Minister of Health of the Republic of Peru, are pleased with the activities and achievements reached in the course of this meeting. The goal of this meeting is to establish the framework and the guidelines that will provide vitality to the common agenda in health that pursues to improve health conditions in our regions comprehensively.

Based on the agreements adopted in the Declaration of Brasilia during the First ASPA Summit, held in the city of Brasilia on May 11, 2005,

Based on the agreements adopted in the Declaration of Doha during the second ASPA Summit, held in the city of Doha on March 31, 2009,

Based on the agreements adopted in the Declaration of Lima during the third ASPA Summit held in the city of Lima on October 2, 2012,

Based on the flourishing relationship between South America and Arab countries that is founded on a wide array of shared cultural and ancestral values that have shaped the South American and Arabic cultures and which have influenced the course of our history,

Recognizing that it is our shared vision of the future and our commitment with the development and inclusion of our peoples, the element that has constituted as the binding factor that brings the paths of our regions together and fills with hope our efforts and actions towards the twenty first century.

Recognizing the efforts of ASPA countries for fulfilling their commitments towards Millennium Development Goals.

Recognizing the importance of promoting universal comprehensive, equitable, quality and compassionate health systems to achieve universal health coverage.

Reaffirming that access to health is a fundamental and inherent human right.

Expressing our conviction in the importance of achieving the unfinished MDG Agenda and making health a main priority for the Post 2015 Development Agenda and in the Sustainable Development Goals, as a means to promote life lasting quality health.

Recognizing and congratulating the representatives of the Delegations that submitted excellent scientific and technical presentations during the preparatory meeting.

Have agreed the following:

1. Closely coordinate and strengthen the relations between the Ministries of Health of our regions and between our countries, placing particular emphasis on the promotion of cooperation and on the exchange of experiences in the field of health.
2. To cooperate for the development of primary and specialized health care provision and on the establishment of Universal Health Systems and universal health coverage.

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3. Encourage our regions to renew efforts in the field of surveillance, prevention, response and control of communicable diseases, including new emerging and re-emerging diseases.

4. Recognizing that the global burden and threat of non-communicable diseases also constitute a major public health challenge in the ASPA countries, the countries resolve to strengthen regional efforts to address comprehensively non-communicable diseases and their risk factors.

5. Call the attention on the need to scale up commitments in our regions to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities by establishing health policies to address their particular needs with the provision of timely, effective and friendly health care.
6. Further develop strategies and comprehensive action plans that promote care and comprehensive attention of the elderly, to ensure their active and healthy ageing population in ASPA countries.
7. Ensure access and equity in health activities including access to health products and promote the exchange of experiences based on international best practices in the field of health products, to promote the streamlining of regulatory processes and procedures with the aim to ensure access to quality, safe and efficacious products for populations of ASPA countries.
8. Promote quality improvement of mother and child health care, focusing efforts on prenatal, prenatal and postnatal care and children up to five years.
9. Work jointly towards strengthening and improving the quality of human resources in health in our regions, to enhance competencies and skills of health – and additional personnel to transformative education approaches and continuous professional development opportunities, facilitating the incorporation of more skilled and trained professionals, considering that they constitute the center of therapeutic, preventive and supportive processes.
10. Encourage common positions in international forums and other regional blocks, on any topics that may affect the health of our peoples, placing special emphasis on making health a priority for the Post 2015 Development Agenda.
11. Recognize the impact of environmental changes, with emphasis on climate changes, on the health of our peoples and to collaborate and strive for the incorporation of this subject in global forums.
12. Promote academic, research and innovative technology production in health, which is accessible to ASPA countries, based on their needs and priorities. Knowing that the development possibility of our countries for the twenty first century is highly conditioned by the investment a country makes in education and technology and that it is the creation and innovation capacity in the different fields of human knowledge which enhances the quality of life of our peoples.
13. Establish a cooperation protocol among ASPA countries to mitigate extreme health needs, knowing that political, social and economic instability a country may lead to unfavorable conditions that might negatively affect public health needs generating high levels of tension and conflict that may evolve into acts of violence and deteriorate significantly the living conditions of its population, undermining its public health level.
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14. Maximize existing efforts that are aimed at identifying and eliminating actions activities and behaviors that result in substandard/spurious/falsely labeled/falsified/counterfeit medical products in ASPA countries.
15. Highlight the importance of sufficient funding to assure comprehensive universal health systems and universal health coverage.
16. Promote the strengthening of all aspects of health care governance within the ASPA countries and regarding the social, political and environmental determinants that act on health in order to achieve comprehensive development of health in our regions.
17. Express our solidarity with all people affected by any kind of violence and/or terrorism against medical facilities, services and personnel which may prevent medical help to reach people in need.
18. Express their solidarity to the Chilean people affected by the earthquake.
19. Express their deep gratitude to the Peruvian government for hosting this meeting.

20. Suggest that the next meeting will take place in a country of the Arab League.
Representative of Kuwait
Representative of Libya
Representative of Brazil
Representative of Peru