Copenhagen Consensus of Mayors

Healthier and Happier Cities for All

A transformative approach for safe, inclusive, sustainable and resilient societies

12–13 February 2018 │Copenhagen, Denmark

Healthy Cities foster health and well-being through governance, empowerment and participation, creating urban places for equity and community prosperity, and investing in people for a peaceful planet.

Healthy Cities lead by example, tackling inequalities and promoting governance and leadership for health and well-being through innovation, knowledge sharing and city health diplomacy.

1.0 We commit to take action together to improve the health and well-being of all who live, love, learn, work and play in our cities.

1.1 We, the mayors and political leaders of cities and urban places in the WHO European Region, have gathered together in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 12–13 February 2018 at the Summit of Mayors. We recognize the power cities can wield in addressing the major challenges that affect people and our world today. We commit to using that power to ensure equitable and sustainable development, and peaceful, prosperous and just societies.

1.2 We welcome the global vision and opportunity provided by the adoption of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. We express our commitment to Healthy Cities as a movement to achieve our common goals.

1.3 We believe that the WHO Healthy Cities Network offers a transformative approach to tackling today's greatest challenges. We are ready and willing to act to implement the 2030 Agenda and its global goals, as well as the complementary New Urban Agenda, focusing on sustainable development and Health 2020, the European regional policy framework and strategy for health and well-being.

1.4 Together we accept the challenge of joining forces to achieve our goals, united by our vision for Healthy Cities. We can lead by example.

1.5 We recognize that our political leadership and vision is vital to ensuring sustainable development and peaceful and just societies that leave no one behind.

1.6   As political leaders we take responsibility for calling for action within our cities and working alongside partner cities, national governments and international organizations in order to achieve equity, health and well-being for all.

1.7   We commit to working towards being Healthy Cities in order to achieve our common vision. Healthy Cities, under the auspices of WHO, acknowledges that "Health is created and lived by people within the settings of their everyday life; where they learn, work, play, and love" as stated in the *Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, 1986.*

1.8   Healthy Cities are supportive communities, where inclusive, accountable and participatory governance is exercised in the pursuit of health, well-being, peace and the common good. Cities that are part of the Healthy Cities movement lead by example locally and globally. They cooperate with others to create physical, social and cultural environments that empower and enable all people in our cities. They allow people to reach their full human potential and contribute to community resilience, improving the world for all.

1.9   We commit to exploring transformative approaches – forging partnerships across cities, through city health diplomacy, with national governments, international organizations, different sectors and levels of government, as well as with civil society and our populations.

Investing in the **people** who make up our cities

2.0   *A healthy city leads by example by emphasizing a human focus to societal development and by prioritizing investment in people to improve equity and inclusion through enhanced empowerment.*

2.1   We recognize that a focus on people throughout the life-course facilitates improving the health and well-being of all, reduces inequalities within and between cities, and creates an environment that promotes thriving, empowered and resilient populations.

2.2   We emphasize the importance of non-discriminatory governance processes, empowering communities and allowing all people to be involved in the decisions that affect them, regardless of their sex, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, political ideology, culture or nationality.

2.3   We recognize that enhanced societal trust and community cohesion are crucial for inclusive, safe and sustainable cities, and both individual and collective resilience.

2.4   We commit to promote active policies to reduce anxiety, resentment, hate, distrust and xenophobia. Urban places can become enabling places if social, mental, emotional and relational factors are also taken into account when planning cities for well-being.

2.5   We stress the need to invest in health and well-being, as a precondition to equitable, sustainable and peaceful societies. We recognize the role that cities and urban places play in disease prevention and health promotion, and the need to address the social, environmental, cultural, behavioural, commercial and political determinants of health and well-being.

2.6   We commit to work towards universal access to essential goods and services to ensure equity, health and well-being for all. This requires people-focused governance architecture and mechanisms at all levels, city health diplomacy, and strong coherence between policies and levels of governance.

Designing urban **places** that improve health and well-being

3.0   *A healthy city leads by example, with the social, physical and cultural environments aligned to create a place that is actively inclusive, and facilitates the pursuit of health and well-being for all.*

3.1   We commit to a transformative approach to engaging with the places where people live.

3.2   We commit to design and to build urban places that make the healthiest choice also the cheapest and easiest, and most accessible choice.

3.3   We commit to transform cities and urban places through human-centred urban development and planning, prioritizing people and the planet. This includes identifying community needs, using existing community assets and ensuring equitable access to common spaces, goods and services.

3.4   We stress the need to design and to plan cities and urban places that support health throughout the life-course, from ensuring the best start in life for all through to supporting healthy aging and age-friendly environments.

3.5   We recognize the urgent need to ensure our cities and urban places provide the environmental, social and cultural conditions to allow our populations to thrive, and resolve to support the implementation of international commitments.

Greater **participation** and partnerships for health and well-being

4.0   *A healthy city leads by example by ensuring the participation of all individuals and communities in the decisions that affect them and the places they live, work, love and play.*

4.1   We emphasize the importance of inclusive participation throughout all levels of governance and society. This includes involving people and communities through participatory governance, as well as building new partnerships for better health and well-being.

4.2   We commit to breaking down the silos within our cities to improve joined-up governance for health and well-being, including strengthening the use of the health-in-all-policies approach and city health diplomacy.

4.3   We commit to strengthen the health, social and environmental literacy of our populations across the life-course, as a tool to encourage participation and empowerment. Empowering increases self-efficacy and self-esteem, improving agency and individual control and ownership of one's health and well-being.

4.4   We stress the leadership role of cities and municipalities in building partnerships with our communities, civil society and other actors to ensure that the planet is protected while contributing to improved equity, health and well-being for all.

4.5   We recognize the need to facilitate a cultural and normative shift throughout society towards increased empowerment, equitable sustainable development and the prioritization of protecting the planet, biodiversity, and human health and well-being.

Improved community **prosperity** and access to common goods and services

5.0   *A healthy city leads by example by striving for enhanced community prosperity and strengthened assets through values-based governance of common goods and services.*

5.1   We advocate for progressive measures of societal progress, moving beyond traditional fiscal measures of growth and development.

5.2   We commit to support investment in transformative economic models, such as the circular economy, the silver economy and the green economy, in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda.

5.3   We recognize the role of cities and urban places in providing universal social protection floors such as basic income for all people. Social protection policies should be gender responsive, since the level of participation in the labour force and the burden of care are unequally distributed among women and men, affecting their health and the health of family members and others around them.

5.4   We advocate for all city, local and municipal governments to adopt ethical investment policies that ensure that their financial and investment strategies do not undermine health and well-being –

including social, cultural, commercial and environmental determinants of health – and are in line with the values of equality, non-exploitation and adherence to human rights for all.

5.5   We emphasize the need to shift cultural norms towards societies that value jobs in the sectors that support human and social capital, including education, health and social care, tourism and culture, and recognize that this is only achievable through sustained investment in these sectors, ensuring that the jobs that are so important to the functioning of our society are valued economically, financially, socially and culturally.

5.6   We emphasize the need to invest in the triple helix system, strengthening the partnerships between government, university and industry, and to act jointly to enhance the knowledge base, and to promote innovation and sustainable and equitable economic development.

5.7   We stress that now is the time to come together and to address the commercial determinants of health, in the economic sector and throughout society, ensuring that when there is a dissonance between public health and the commercial objectives of a policy, then health and well-being are the measures of success. This is essential in order for society to flourish and prosper in a sustainable way.

Promoting **peace** and security through inclusive societies

6.0   *A healthy city leads by example by promoting peace through inclusive societies that focus on places, participation, prosperity and the planet, while putting people at the centre of all policies and actions.*

6.1   We stress the vital role that cities and urban places have to play in ensuring peaceful societies across our Region and further across the globe. This requires ensuring a focus on people, communities, empowerment and resilience in order to create and maintain places conducive to sustained peace.

6.2   We reinforce the importance of institutions, governance systems and architecture that prioritize social justice and inclusive participation in society.

6.3   We stress the role of cities and urban places as facilitators of peace in conflict and post-conflict situations, and as sustainers of peace in fragile regions.

6.4   We emphasize the necessity of tackling, thorough governance and societal norms, corruption, discrimination and all forms of violence, both physical and emotional, within societies. This includes violence against children, intimate-partner violence, hate speech, bullying and ostracisation.

6.5   We emphasize the important role of cities and municipalities in health security, emergency preparedness and response to shocks and disasters, both natural and human caused. This includes

the role of cities and urban places in food and water security, as well as in building individual and collective resilience against natural disasters.

Protect the **planet** from degradation including through sustainable consumption and production

7.0 *A healthy city leads by example by ensuring that the protection of the planet is at the heart of all city policies, both internal and external.*

7.1　We commit to take action on climate change: to manage the unavoidable so as to avoid the unmanageable.

7.2　We reiterate that the health and well-being of people and the health of the planet are intrinsically linked. A healthy city must ensure that, through a whole-of-city approach, all policies and actions undertaken at all levels of government are designed to facilitate the improvement of both.

7.3　We commit to transforming our urban places to be in harmony with the planet, to reduce soil consumption and exploitation, and to work towards the recovery and remediation of city brown field areas so as to turn them into inclusive places.

7.4　We underline the importance of divestment from health-harming sectors as necessary cornerstones of any economic and development strategy, as we need to lead by example in the promotion of sustainable and ethical investments for our planet and people.

7.5　We stress the role of cities and municipalities to work with regional and national authorities, and international organizations to ensure coherence across levels of governance, implementing the 2030 Agenda and creating a more equitable, sustainable, healthier and happier planet for all.

7.6　We commit to continue to work with cities in the European Region and beyond to meet our common vision and address our common challenges, using our commitment to the Healthy Cities Network, city health diplomacy, city climate diplomacy, and other city and urban networks that share common goals and values.

8.0　We commit to act collectively with other cities in both the WHO European Region and globally, through a focus on people, participation, prosperity, planet, places and peace, for the health and well-being of all, to meet the urgent and transformative demands of the 2030 Agenda.

We cannot afford to fail.