First Meeting for Health for All – Argentina

On December 12, government representatives of the Universal Health Coverage (CUS) in Argentina, academics, committed citizens and representatives of civil society organizations, with the support of UHC 2030, Iniciar for Global Action Foundation, Asociación Médica Argentina (AMA), CEDIQUIFA, CAESPO and Chagas Disease Alliance, joined in the “First Meeting Health for All, because all life has equal value”, with the purpose of:

- raise awareness about the UHC in Argentina and about the needs of vulnerable groups,
- urge our legislators to make the National Day of Health Coverage official, every December 12th
- and learn about the advances of the UHC policy in Argentina.

97 activists (72 participants, 7 volunteers, 18 speakers and coordinators), joined their experiences, abilities and interest in Universal Health Coverage in the legendary and prestigious Asociación Médica Argentina (1892).

Dr. Jorge Lemus, Minister of Health of the Nation 2015 - 2017 taught us that Argentina is one of the countries that invests most in the region; 8.5 of its GDP, 3.5 points above, of the recent Declaration of Principles, endorsed by leaders of civil society at the second UHC Forum in Tokyo - Japan 13-14 December 2017, but in an economy with one of the most important deficits in the region that also fails to meet its inflation goals, which complicates health costs.

We have learned what is the #CUS, what is its legal framework and what are some of the great challenges that could restrict its implementation; as well as we learned how marginal groups live, from rural areas and urban areas that often have more access to disease than to quality medical care and prevention.

With the participation and support of the President of the Health Commission of the Senate of the Nation, Senator Silvia Elías de Pérez, Health for All Argentina, has achieved the presentation of the Bill to Declare December 12 as National Day of the Universal Health Coverage.

To extend our commitment intersectorially, the Health for All movement in Argentina included in its First Meeting, the publication of a Commitment Letter, endorsed by 53 people and that we will continue spreading to engage more authorities, officials, legislators and citizens, with transcendental axes:

1- Remind our authorities that they should not leave anyone out of coverage and access to health, that every healthy life contributes to Development and that all human life has equal value.

2- Urge the official recognition of December 12 as the Universal Health Coverage Day, because this will ensure that the mandate of the resolution of 12.12.12 of the United Nations on universal health coverage is never forgotten; It would serve as a powerful reminder that universal health coverage, including protection of financial risk, is a priority for all countries and guarantees an occasion, every year, to assess progress and hold governments, donors and all governments accountable, stakeholders for not leaving anyone behind.

The way we promote, seeks the active commitment of political leaders, health representatives, academics, representatives of civil society and citizens, facing the challenges of implementing Universal Health Coverage in Argentina, for comprehensive access and quality and we are moving forward.

Our thanks to all the people, institutions and diverse organizations that have been integrated into the Argentine movement by the Universal Health Coverage 2030.

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