



*"Future through Cooperation"*

## **Declaration of the SEECP Ministers of Health**

### **"Achievements and challenges of strengthening health system performance through addressing inequalities in health services in South Eastern Europe"**

Chisinau, 7 November 2008

We, Ministers of Health of the Participating States of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP): Dr. Bujar OSMANI, Dr. Larisa CATRINICI and Prof. Tomica MILOSAVLJEVIC,

Deputy Minister Dr. Zamira SINOIMERI, Deputy Minister Ms. Gorica SAVOVIC, State Secretary Mr. Ervin Zoltan SZEKELY, Deputy Undersecretary Prof. Dr. Sabahattin AYDIN, Ambassador H.E. Charalambos DIMITRIOU, Director Dr. Svetlana SPASSOVA, National Health Coordinator Dr. Vlasta HRABAK ZERJAVIC,

GATHERED in Chisinau on 7 November 2008, at the SEECP Health Ministerial Meeting "Achievements and challenges of strengthening health system performance through addressing inequalities in health services in South Eastern Europe", under the auspicious of the Moldovan SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office;

IN THE PRESENCE of the representatives of the International and Regional Organizations and Initiatives;

CONVINCED of the necessity to strengthen the regional cooperation in the field of health, as an essential factor of socio-economic development in the South Eastern Europe;

AWARE that SEECP Participating States are facing common risks and challenges in the field of health, which require a close cooperation and adequate response to those challenges;

REAFFIRMING the importance of the SEE Health Network institutionalization and of the future cooperation within this regional initiative under the Regional Cooperation Council;

REAFFIRMING the commitment of common actions to reach the goals and principles of the Tallinn Charter: “Health Systems, Health and Wealth”, adopted at the WHO Regional Office for Europe Ministerial Conference (Tallinn, 25-27 June 2008) and of the Resolution EUR/RC58/R4 on the Management of Health Systems in the WHO European region, adopted at the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Regional Committee for Europe (Tbilisi, 15-18 September 2008);

RECOGNIZING the importance of equity, solidarity and universal access to health services – as the main values and principles of a Health System that addresses population needs;

WELCOMING the achieved results in undertaking the social oriented health reforms in the SEECP countries;

BEING firmly convinced of the crucial role of the policies oriented to addressing inequalities in the Health Systems in these reforms;

UNDERTAKE TO:

- SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE the efficient use of inequality-addressing tools in the health systems of the SEECP Participating States, joining common efforts for cooperation and exchange of experiences in the field.
- COOPERATE with international organizations, as well as with donor countries to minimize the potential socio-economic risks and collateral effects in implementing health systems’ reforms in South Eastern Europe.
- EXCHANGE information and experiences as to optimize the infrastructure of the health systems, assuring the increase of cost-efficiency and reduction of inequalities in health service delivery.
- MAKE WIDER USE of international experiences in achieving the main objectives of the Health Systems: improving population health, financial risks protection and responsiveness of the system towards the population needs and expectations.
- MAKE USE of efficient multilateral cooperation opportunities at political, economical and technical levels, including implementation of joint projects aiming at strengthening Health Systems performance.

- CONTRIBUTE to the strengthening of the dialogue and cooperation in the field of Health Systems and Public Health, calling for the future SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office to organize the SEECP Health Ministerial Meeting, ensuring the continuity of the cooperation process.

The participants to the Meeting express their gratitude to Moldovan authorities for the hospitality and excellent organization of the SEECP Health Ministerial Meeting.

*Adopted on 7 November 2008, in Chisinau*