



United Nations High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage:
Multistakeholder Hearing

New York, 29 April 2019

Excellencies, delegates and colleagues

I am pleased for the invitation and to greet all of the attendees to this Multistakeholder Hearing. I thank the Secretariat and United Nations for hosting this gathering on this important issue.

On behalf of Red PaPaz, Colombia's largest organization of parents and caregivers, I want to underscore the importance of advancing on Universal Health Coverage. To the date, significant results have been attained in this front. However, this effort must necessarily be accompanied by evidence-based actions aimed at preventing diseases, particularly non-transmissible diseases.

Promoting healthy environments, especially among children and adolescents in Colombia, is key to this objective and in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals. This involves, among other actions: (i) preventing the use of psychoactive substances, alcohol, tobacco, (ii) shifting towards natural and healthy diets, and (iii) preventing sexual violence, bullying, cyberbullying and other conducts that may harm mental health of children and adolescents.

Furthermore, the prevention of diseases, particularly non-transmissible diseases, requires the adoption of cost-effective measures. Amongst these Red PaPaz has been working on: (i) imposing specific taxes on alcohol, tobacco and nicotine related products, as well as on sugary beverages and other ultra-processed products, (ii) adopting restrictions on advertisement targeting children, (iii) providing complete information on the content of ultra-processed products, and (iv) fostering maternal breastfeeding.

All of these actions will positively further health protection and will certainly complement Universal Health Coverage.

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