



Health for All Now!
People's Health Movement



Critical Statement on the "*National Consensus Declaration on Primary Health Care in Chile*" and the Proposal for Universal Primary Care

As the Latin American Association of Social Medicine and Collective Health (ALAMES-Chile) and the People's Health Movement (PHM), we reject the so-called "*National Consensus Declaration on Primary Health Care in Chile*" for lacking weak transformative proposals and serving as political legitimization for a government agenda. Primary care has historically been conceived as a public and community strategy, a guarantee of universality and equity. However, this document opens the door to the structural integration of the private sector under the pretext of "efficiency and sustainability," which entails commodifying access to the system, transferring state resources to private companies, fragmenting care, and weakening public stewardship in health.

We believe that an agreement and commitment to Primary Care are fundamental, but they must be built with the real and binding participation of the various stakeholders, through a broadly participatory process with local, regional, and national perspectives. In this sense, it is essential to remember that the first level of care is the home, health at home, where the principles of the PHC strategy take on emancipatory characteristics by placing autonomy and social, cognitive, environmental, and health justice at the center.

Furthermore, the text lends itself to ambiguities on key issues for any serious proposal to strengthen PHC: the binding participation of communities and workers in the management of the system, increased funding to at least 30% of public health spending, and an explicit commitment to territorial and labor equity.

We also denounce the trend toward outsourcing services, which makes the working conditions of health teams precarious and erodes the public nature of the system. Outsourcing is already an established practice at various levels and threatens to deepen job instability at the primary level, weakening the continuity and quality of care.

Regarding the Universal Primary Care (UPC) policy, we recognize that this is an initiative of the current government that should be transformed into public policy, but that must be strengthened and protected against the aforementioned risks. Universal policies are financed through general taxes; however, Chile still maintains a regressive tax structure that ends up reproducing social inequalities and limiting the state's redistributive capacity. In this context, the UPC runs the risk



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of consolidating cross-subsidies to the private sector by allowing the wealthiest sectors access to public services without private insurance contributing proportionally to their financing.

This situation perpetuates historical inequalities in the Chilean system and reinforces policies that are inconsistent with World Bank guidelines.

In view of this, we affirm that true transformation requires:

- Consolidating the PHC as a state, public, universal, and supportive strategy, with no room for commercialization.
- Explicitly rejecting the incorporation of private providers as structural actors in PHC.
- Strengthening interdisciplinary health teams, with job stability, protection against outsourcing, and a community-based and intercultural approach.
- Linking social participation to the planning, management, and evaluation of health policies.
- Sufficient and progressive public financing that increases investment in PHC to levels compatible with its strategic role.

Finally, as stated in the Alma-Ata Declaration, we recall that PHC is the foundation of national health systems. Any effort to strengthen PHC without moving toward a national/universal health system is destined to legitimize commercialization. Primary health care cannot be consolidated without a health system comprised of public centers, co-financed through progressive taxes, and guaranteed a broad and comprehensive set of services relevant to the health needs of communities, beyond the old and limited "benefit packages."

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**We unite, organize, and fight to move forward!
For the right to health!**