



knowing to decide  
scientific and technical information  
for health decisions

Regional Coordination  
Meeting of the VHL  
May 5 - 6, 2003

## Declaration of Puebla

WE, participants in the VI Regional Congress on Health Information Sciences held in Puebla, Mexico from May 7 to 9 in 2003,

### Considering

- That all sectors of the population should participate in the decisions affecting their individual and collective health;
- That it is necessary to increase the spaces and opportunities where different interests can be expressed and consensus on health policies can be built;
- That relevant information and knowledge for decision making to promote public well-being should be produced based on an agenda formulated with broad participation of the citizenry;
- That the dissemination of the scientific and technical information and the reduction of the inequities of access to these public goods are essential elements for the consolidation of health policies as public policies, submitted to public debate and responding to public interest;
- That the new technologies of information and communication based on the Internet play a key role in a timely dissemination of scientific and technical information to all citizens, also creating opportunities for communication and exchange among them;

### Exhort

The governments and the different social sectors of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to promote mechanisms and opportunities for democratic participation in the formulation of Public Health and Science & Technology policies, especially the participation of population groups currently excluded of these processes;

### Commit

To continue the construction and promotion of the Virtual Health Library in a decentralized and participatory way as a dynamic platform to facilitate the production, communication and utilization of information and knowledge, in order to support the formulation and implementation of public policies geared to promote health and to combat poverty and inequity.

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