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## NETWORK: HEALTH EQUITY IN THE AMERICAS

*Collaborate, Gain Power, Take Action*



WORLD Policy  
Analysis Center



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**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017: 8:00 – 9:00 PST**

**Webinar: Network: Health Equity in the Americas**

### Participants

1. Jessica Allen, UCL Institute of Health Equity
2. Leonel Arguello, Project Concern International
3. Francisco Armada, UNASUR
4. Jimena Avellaneda, GESMujer
5. Elysse Bautista, Pro Mujer
6. Kevin Burga, UCLA Blum Center for Poverty and Health in Latin America
7. Carlos Caceres, Universidad Cayetano Heredia
8. Xochitl Castaneda, UC Berkeley
9. Arachu Castro, Tulane University
10. Anna Coates, PAHO
11. Nicolas De Guzman, WORLD Policy Analysis Center
12. Anne Dubois, UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America
13. Luis Galvao, FIOCRUZ
14. Peter Goldblatt, UCL Institute of Health Equity
15. German Guerra, National Institute for Public Health -INSP
16. Juan Pablo Gutierrez, National Institute for Public Health -INSP
17. Robert Hahn, Center for Disease Control
18. Trene Hawkins, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
19. Jody Heymann, WORLD Policy Analysis Center
20. Ilene Hyman, University of Toronto
21. Patricia Jaramillo, Red de Educación Popular Entre Mujeres de Latinoamérica y el Caribe  
REPEM
22. Andrea Leiva, UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America
23. Pedro Mas, Instituto de Medicina Tropical Pedro Kourí
24. Monica Novillo, Coordinadora de la Mujer
25. Paulina Pacheco, ONIS - Observatorio Nacional de Inequidades en Salud- Secretaría de Salud
26. Amy Ritterbusch, PARCES
27. Michael Rodriguez, UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America
28. Rocio Saenz, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica
29. Nelly Salgado, National Institute for Public Health -INSP
30. Wesley Schmidt, Ministerio de Salud Pública y Bienestar Social
31. Alexandre Siquiera, FIOCRUZ
32. Donald Simeon, University of the West Indies St Augustine
33. Manuel Urbina, Investigación en Salud y Demografía -INSAD
34. Alicia Yamin, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health
35. Unknown caller

## Summary of the 2017 Summit

- Overview of the Summit, Approach and Process
  - Purpose was to drive change in health policy designed to improve health equity in the Americas
  - Multisectoral approach from countries throughout Americas to share and collaborate on policies and issues related to health equity
  - Focus Areas: policy, gender equality, ethnicity, indigenous populations, region of the Americas, social determinants of health, pathways to health, multisectoral collaborations
  - Objectives:
    1. Objective 1: Promote an exchange of information on policies and programming designed to address health equity and the forces that drive inequitable health.
    2. Objective 2: Bring together international group of actors for sharing and collaboration, and work to promote action on health equity
- Declaration of Cuernavaca

Several members (Rocio Saenz, Carlos Caceres, Juan Pablo Gutierrez, Francisco Armada, Paulina Pacheco, Leonel Arguello, Manuel Urbina) spoke about the development of the Declaration. Key concerns include:

  - Declaration was informed by and drafted at the Summit to reflect enthusiasm, motivation, and shared vision to increase action in the Americas in a collaborative way. Mutually beneficial to all sectors represented
  - Call for declaration to be more detailed
  - Since not presented at Summit, call for more discussion among network members to clarify the purpose and components of the document

**Call to action:** If you have any further comments or additions to the Declaration, please send to us no later than Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Once all revisions are received, we will return the draft to the Network. It will then be the first item of business at our next meeting. The draft Declaration can be found [\(Spanish\)](#) or [\(English\)](#).

## Development of Network to Share Knowledge Promote Action on Health Equity in Americas

- Network Role:
  - Share knowledge on promising policies to promote health equity
  - Promote implementation, dissemination and monitoring of policies
  - Be an intersectoral platform
  - Inform PAHO Commission
- Substantive Areas
  - Upholding human rights, including rights contained in international conventions addressing equality
  - Education for all
  - Instituting effective legislation prohibiting all forms of discrimination
  - Work and working conditions
  - Sexual and reproductive health

- Caregiving across the life course
- Gender, sexual orientation, and gender-identity based violence
- Child and youth health social services
- Membership and Connections
- Communications and Processes
  - Values: the cornerstone of the Network's goals and objectives. Extremely important because it informs how we do our business: action steps and implementation.
  - From Jessica Allen (PAHO Commission): A web space for document sharing has been set up as a place where Network members can upload information to inform the Commission's work. It is an interactive site that allows comments and discussions among users. The Commission is seeking case studies, published and gray literature on research and interventions related to health equity policy and programming. The materials will become part of the Commission's evidence-based review of the Commission's identified 10 health equity areas affecting health equity and well-being. The site will contain additional guidelines for the types of materials most useful for this review.

**Call to Action:** Network members who have research to post on this site should notify Andrea Leiva ([andrealeiva@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:andrealeiva@mednet.ucla.edu)); we will forward your name/email address to have Jessica send you an invitation to access their site.

➤ Subcommittees

1. Governance and Structure

➤ 2. Programming

3. Financial Development

From Manuel Urbina: an important area discussed at the Summit is the financing for health interventions and the impact on social determinants that can be made by governments and social organizations that have funding.

4. Communications: to be driven by a strategic communications plan including dynamic, interactive website and other online presence; listservs, ongoing webinars.

**Call to Action:** Network members are asked to consider participating as a member of one of the subcommittees. We have much work to do, beginning with defining the roles and action plans for each subcommittee. Your help will be invaluable.

- Linkages mentioned by webinar participants
  - From Francisco Armada: The South American Council on Health of UNASUR has a technical group for the social determinants of health and comprises 12 member nations. [www.isags-unasur.org](http://www.isags-unasur.org)
  - From Luiz Galvao and Alexandre Siqueria (FIOCRUZ): Determinantes Sociais da Saude: portal e observatorio sobre iniquidades em saude. <http://dssbr.org/site/>. The website will assist in monitoring trends of inequities in Brazil. Efforts have begun to identify indicators of social determinants of health and examine causes of disease, with first efforts focused on the Amazon region (northern Brazil).
  - From Rocio Saenz: Costa Rica report on measurement of the burden of inequity: [ISBN 978-9968-916-55-4](https://doi.org/10.1891/978-0-9968-916-55-4)

**Next Meeting**

Planned for late January / early February. Members are asked to [take a brief Doodle poll](#) to help us plan a date that will accommodate the majority.