

| April 23, 2010, Lugo, Spain

DECLARATION OF LUGO ON THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF DRUG USE AND DEPENDENCE

We, European, Latin American and Caribbean city mayors, national policy-makers and experts, meeting in Lugo, Spain in the context of the “EU-LAC City Partnerships in Drug Treatment”, recognize that drug demand reduction policies and programs should be comprehensive and long-term, and should be geared to promoting healthy lifestyles, preventing drug use and abuse, providing treatment and rehabilitation for drug-dependent persons, and offering recovery support services in the community.

We have focused our efforts for the last three years on improving drug abuse prevention and treatment policies and programs in our cities.

We have shared out municipal plans for preventing drug and alcohol use, particularly among young people, with community support.

We have also seen the importance of providing in the cities treatment and rehabilitation for drug-dependent individuals.

We have learned, through the assessments we have conducted of the status of drug treatment in our cities, that our drug treatment services and our human resources training can be improved through the exchange of good practices and information among experts from both sides of the Atlantic.

We are most grateful to the European Union for its support and financing of the EU-LAC Drug Treatment City Partnerships over the last three years.

We are also most grateful to the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), Secretariat for Multidimensional Security of the Organization of American States for its leadership in organizing and carrying out this initiative.

We have concluded that drug policies must be based on scientific evidence. This evidence shows us that drug dependence is a chronic relapsing disease that needs professional health care, and the support of local social and welfare services made available by cities.

It is necessary to remove the stigma and social exclusion that are still associated with drug users and drug-dependent people and that impede their recovery and full participation as productive members of the community.

We recognize that since the reasons for drug dependence are complex, therapy and recovery must necessarily also be complex and many-layered.

We are convinced that helping people recover from their illness of drug dependence means drawing on many government and community resources, particularly health care, social welfare, housing, employment and education. Resources invested in recovery services translate into benefits for society as a whole by reducing the costs associated with dependence.

We agree that drug policy works best when it is part of overall social policies, with drug treatment and rehabilitation working hand in hand with social services. An integrated health response to addiction requires a full partnership of government and civil society, in the common mission of improving the lives of every individual and their families.

We are also convinced that cooperation, communication and clear roles for different agencies are key to success in treating drug dependence, whether locally or in the central government.

We welcome the full cooperation of civil society organizations and the private sector in providing and supporting drug abuse prevention and treatment services for our citizens.

We express our support for international initiatives that build cooperation and exchanges of good practices among the local agencies and individuals, since it is they who work most closely with the people of our cities. We therefore propose to our national Governments that they ensure that their drug policies, particularly in demand reduction, include the promotion and continuation of initiatives such as the EU-LAC City Partnership in Drug Treatment that has brought us together in Lugo.

On behalf of the more than forty cities that have committed to this multilateral City Partnerships initiative in recent years, we express our thanks to the City of Lugo and to its citizens for their work in bringing together the peoples of Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

We are committed to translating our transatlantic exchanges of experiences into concrete plans and actions for the future.

We therefore declare that we are formally establishing the EU-LAC City Partnership in Drug Demand Reduction, that will be signed in Coimbra, Portugal in September 2010, geared to promoting public policies, plans and actions to prevent drug and alcohol use and to provide treatment and recovery support services for drug-dependent persons. This EU-LAC Partnership is committed to exchanges of evidence-based experiences in demand reduction, and to the protection of human rights.

Done in Lugo, Spain, April 23, 2010

