

*"Sesquicentenario de la Epopeya Nacional 1864 – 1870"*



*Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores*

V MRE/UGDH N° 453/2 1

Asunción. May 18, 2021

Madame President,

I am pleased to address Your Excellency on this occasion to express the commitment of the Republic of Paraguay to the Call to Action of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health on COVID-19.

In this regard, we reaffirm our determination to continue our firm commitment to the protection of life and health as essential public goods, guiding actions to strengthen the health system and mitigate the multidimensional effects of the pandemic, which threaten to deepen pre-existing conditions of inequality and vulnerability.

With this adherence, we reaffirm our commitment to safeguard and protect the health of the entire population, particularly women, children and adolescents, during the response to and recovery from COVID-19, leaving no one behind.

In the Republic of Paraguay, Law 6524/20 established exceptional budgetary, administrative, fiscal, financial, and economic and financial policy measures to address the extraordinary challenges posed by the pandemic. More recently, Law 6729/21 was enacted, which allocates social funds to the binational entities of Itaipú and Yacyretú in order for them to purchase of medical supplies, hospital infrastructure and social protection for the duration of the pandemic.

In this context, we make the following specific commitments:

1. To continue moving towards universal health coverage and access, centered on the person, with the principles of equity, quality and humanization of services, and focused on primary care, in accordance with the National Health Policy 2015 - 2030.

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2. Continue promoting actions based on strategic lines that contribute to reduce morbidity and mortality, and improve the quality of life of children, emphasizing the reduction of the gaps that generate inequity, in line with the National Plan for the Comprehensive Health of Children 2016 - 2021.
3. Continue with adaptation actions for the implementation of a model of comprehensive and adolescent-friendly health services, with a focus on rights, gender perspective, interculturality and diversity, in accordance with the National Adolescent Health Plan 2016 - 2021.
4. To ensure that all people of reproductive age can exercise their right to voluntary family planning through timely access to complete and accurate information, quality health services and free provision of effective contraceptives, in accordance with the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Plan 2019 - 2023.
5. Advance in the consolidation of the Social Protection System for economic recovery, with special attention to children, adolescents, women, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and population living in poverty, with a rights-based approach, linked to the *Vamos!* Social Protection System.
6. Continue making efforts to fund protection actions for children and adolescents without parental care due to the COVID-19 pandemic within the framework of ongoing programs and initiatives.
7. Continue implementing actions for the eradication of violence against children and adolescents, through inter-institutional coordination and awareness campaigns, in alliance with the private sector, international organizations and civil society, as established in the Paraguay Country Action Plan and the protection of children from abuse and all forms of violence in the new agenda for sustainable development 2015 - 2030.
8. Continue strengthening plans and programs to combat violence against women through the implementation of protocols for action, prevention and care.

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These commitments are directly aligned with requests 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 of the Call to Action of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health on COVID-19, for whose fulfillment we advocate multi-stakeholder approaches that incorporate the collective work of all stakeholders, including State institutions, civil society, the United Nations system and donors.

I take this opportunity to convey to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
Enciades Acevedo  
Ministro

Her Excellency Ms. Helen Clark  
Chair of the Board of Directors  
Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health  
Geneva, Swiss Federation