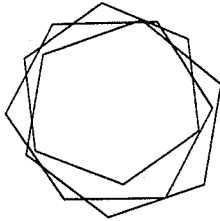


Declaration of San José  
Towards the Virtual  
Health Library

VI Meeting of Latin American  
and Caribbean System on  
Health Sciences Information,  
IV Pan American Congress on  
Health Sciences Information,  
San José, Costa Rica,  
March 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> 1998



We, the delegates of the Latin American and Caribbean System on Health Sciences Information, at the Meeting held in San José, Costa Rica from the 23 - 27 March, 1998, IV Pan American Congress on Health Sciences Information.

### *Taking into account*

That health and well-being are the foundation and reason for all efforts channeled towards development;

That health conditions are intimately related to the equity of living conditions and access to the fruits of development;

That access to information constitutes one of the essential elements to achieve these goals;

That the changes in information and communications technology in the name of globalization offers risks as well as opportunities for the goals of human development in the region;

That it is the responsibility of nations to act consciously to reduce the negative effects and maximize the benefits that technological development brings;

That the Latin American and Caribbean System on Health Sciences Information, under the leadership of BIREME/PAHO/WHO has been consolidating and effectively managing the new technologies and is capable of applying them to the realities of the region.

### *Pledge*

To construct the Virtual Health Library in a cooperative manner, as a unified response to our health situation, facilitating wide access to information for the permanent improvement of health of the people. At the same time it will be a tool to strengthen our health systems and sustain human development in the Region.

### *Urge*

The Pan American Health Organization to continue to support and strengthen the Latin American and Caribbean System on Health Sciences Information, and coordinate the formulation of policies and plans for the construction of the Virtual Health Library;

The technical and financial cooperation agencies and other entities, both regional and international offer major support to the initiatives and actions that generate the fulfillment of these goals;

The Governments of the Region to support the strengthening of National Health Information Systems, facilitate the coordination of relevant national plans, assign and mobilize the necessary resources for the development of the Virtual Health Library and include it as an essential component of any initiative that seeks to promote the use of technology in the name of health and well-being of the people of the Region.

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