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In reply please
refer to:

Your reference:

Kate Gordon, Chairperson
Strategic Growth Council
1400 10th Street
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USA

21 February 2020

Dear Chairperson Kate Gordon and Members of the Strategic Growth Council,

Re: Congratulations on the 10th anniversary of the Health in All Policies Task Force

The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes California's Health in All Policies Task Force on its 10th anniversary, for its invaluable contributions to this important and growing field.

The WHO 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion in Finland in 2013 resulted in the Helsinki Statement on Health in All Policies, defining it as an approach to public policies across sectors that systematically takes into account the health implications of decisions, seeks synergies, and avoids harmful health impacts. The approach emphasizes examining the consequences of public policies for health systems, and the determinants of health and equity. It builds upon a rich heritage of ideas and evidence that intersectoral action and healthy public policy are central elements for disease prevention and the realization of health as a human right.

Because of the great promise of the Health in All Policies approach, WHO supports its dissemination. It is recognized that governments have a range of priorities in which health and equity do not automatically gain precedence over other policy objectives. Health in All Policies is an approach that can ensure health considerations are transparently taken into account in policy-making, and to open up opportunities for co-benefits across sectors and society at large.

California's Health in All Policies Task Force is among a host of successful initiatives across the globe, including in Thailand, Finland and Australia. California's Health in All Policies Task Force has not only implemented cross-sectoral health equity practices, but also disseminated this approach at home and internationally through its collaboration with WHO and other initiatives.

On behalf of WHO, I extend our congratulations and appreciation to the many sectors represented on California's Health in All Policies Task Force for their dedication to advancing health equity, and to the staff and organizational partners, including the California Department of Public Health, Strategic Growth Council, and Public Health Institute, for their visionary leadership and commitment to collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Etienne Krug
Director
Social Determinants of Health

cc: Louise Bedsworth, Executive Director
Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary
Nicole Capretz, Public Member
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary
Michael Flad, Public Member
Mark Ghaly, Secretary
David Kim, Secretary
Alexis Podesta, Secretary
Karen Ross, Secretary