



## Declaration

### CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF COOPERATION AND MOVING FORWARD

We, the Ministers of Health and other high-level representatives from the NDPHS Partner Countries Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden, reaffirm our commitment to the Nordic and Baltic Sea Region cooperation with a shared vision of leading the way to sustainable and inclusive societies with equal opportunities for good health and well-being throughout the life course.

In the 20 years since the Oslo Declaration, the Partnership has proven itself as a unique and valued platform for cooperation. It has been equally beneficial for all its Partners and stakeholders as a forum for mutual learning, exchange of experiences, and sharing of best practices. The Partnership continues to add value to the regional agenda by advocating good health and social well-being and building networks.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has triggered the largest humanitarian crisis in recent European history with destruction, human suffering, and millions of people displaced from their homes. It has had a devastating effect on people's health and well-being, causing impaired access to care, medicine, and life-saving treatments. In the spirit of the shared responsibility for the prosperity of Northern Europe, its sustainable development, and the well-being of its population, we underline the importance of support to Ukraine and its citizens in this humanitarian crisis and beyond through increased collaboration.

In collaboration with the Ukrainian partners and provided there is interest from the Ukraine's side, areas of cooperation between the NDPHS and Ukraine will be explored. The goal of such collaboration would be strengthening cooperation to support Ukraine in its current crisis, supporting countries hosting temporarily displaced Ukrainian citizens, supporting Ukraine's rebuilding, reconstruction, and recovery after the war, and aiding the country's integration with the European Union.

We commit to ensuring that our collaboration continues to be characterised by common democratic values and commitment to improving health and well-being. Henceforth, we strengthen the Partnership's role as a political forum for promoting value-based cooperation and as a recognised network of experts advocating health and well-being. The Partnership will continue providing its Partners with useful tools, which include policy learning, knowledge exchange, knowledge production and brokering, capacity building, and cross-sectoral cooperation.

Estonia  
Ms. Riina Sikkut  
Minister of Health

Finland  
Ms. Sanni Grahn-Laasonen  
Minister of Social Security

Iceland  
H.E. Ms. Bryndís Kjartansdóttir  
Ambassador

Latvia  
Mr. Hosams Abu Meri  
Minister of Health

Lithuania  
Mr. Arūnas Dulkys  
Minister of Health

Norway  
Ms. Ellen Moen Rønning-Amesen  
State Secretary of Health and Care Services

Sweden  
Mr. Jakob Forssmed  
Minister for Social Affairs and Public Health