**COLOMBIAN MANIFESTO FOR THE PREVENTION OF MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION**

Cardiovascular disease in Colombia causes more than 60,000 deaths annually, representing 1 in 3 deaths and making it the primary cause of preventable death in the country[[1]](#footnote-1).

Among all cardiovascular events, myocardial infarction is responsible for 29,000 deaths, which on average represents 80 deaths per day[[2]](#footnote-2). In Colombia, heart attacks are responsible for more deaths than all cancers combined.

High cholesterol produces 47.6% of heart attacks, and is the first cause in the development of cardiovascular disease. Of this percentage, 2 out of 10 people who survive a heart attack experience another in less than a year[[3]](#footnote-3).

Cardiovascular disease costs Colombia $6.4 trillion annually, of which the health system takes on an approximate cost of $3.84 trillion[[4]](#footnote-4). This means that 6.55% of the total expense in medical care is dedicated to the treatment of these diseases. The cost of lost productivity amounts to $2.58 billion per year.

Despite actions carried out to date to tackle this issue, results are not convincing, and the social and economic impact of cardiovascular disease continues to grow annually. This situation requires a priority intervention in the form of public policy that seeks to modify behavior and generate commitment of society.

In order to drive positive change, today the World Heart Federation and Socieded Colombiana de Cardiología y Cirugía Cardiovascular (Colombian Society of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery) have convened a group of experts to fight against heart disease and stroke. The result of this working group is an action plan which aims to eradicate preventable heart attacks.

The World Heart Federation, the Colombian Society of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery, the Ministry of Health, the Academy and Civil Society are committed to take decisive actions so that by the year 2025 in Colombia there will be 7,000 fewer heart attacks per year, equivalent to a 25% reduction in mortality.

To this end, we will work jointly in three concrete actions, to be implemented by June 2018:

1. Creation of the National Infarction Registry in Colombia - Programa Bandera Roja

(Red Flag Programme)

2. Restructuring of Cardiac Rehabilitation programmes in all health care institutions

3. Priority implementation of cholesterol clinical guidelines for the management of high-risk patients in all IPS (Institutions providing health care services) of the country.

Colombia will be a model for the region in the prevention of heart attacks and a leader in the approach, follow-up and intervention of patients with high cardiovascular risk.

Signed in Rionegro, Antioquia on the 16 November 2017

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1. DANE report about Vital statistics [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Minsalud. Hombres, más propensos a morir por infarto. 2014 <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/Paginas/Hombres,-más-propensos-en-Colombia-a-morir-de-infarto.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. DANE report about Vital statistics [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Report by Deloitte based on 2015 figures [↑](#footnote-ref-4)