

IAPAC Commemorates 1-Year Anniversary of Fast-Track Cities Initiative's Launch

**Statement by José M. Zuniga, PhD, MPH, President/CEO, IAPAC
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A year ago today, Mayors from 26 cities around the world gathered in the City of Paris to sign the *Paris Declaration on Fast-Track Cities*, committing themselves to accelerate their local AIDS responses and attain 90-90-90 and zero discrimination targets by 2020. The FTCI has grown rapidly as the importance of city leadership in the fight against AIDS has been reinforced. Over the past 12 months, the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) together with its partners have worked with interested cities from all five regions and the number of priority cities whose Mayors have signed the *Paris Declaration* has now more than doubled. The Mayors of six cities will sign the *Paris Declaration* in commemoration of World AIDS Day 2016, including the cities of Baltimore, Melbourne, Mexico City, Providence, São Paulo, and Washington, DC.

IAPAC is proud of the Fast-Track Cities work advanced to date in partnership with the City of Paris, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). Together we have generated momentum around an initiative meant to leverage urban AIDS responses to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. This work has included creating space at local, national, regional, and global levels for the dialogue necessary to coalesce around the Fast-Track Cities Initiative's targets and initiate local fast-track planning processes. For example, over the past 12 months IAPAC has been privileged to work with more than 30 current and prospective Fast-Track Cities to hold local planning meetings around achieving the FTCI objectives. More importantly, we are proud of our Fast-Track Cities, for their commitment and their follow-through in advancing locally led efforts to optimize their HIV care continua and engage with their key affected populations, including guaranteeing that affected communities have a seat at the decision-making table.

There are more cities that IAPAC and our fellow core partners are recruiting to join the Fast-Track Cities network. Our goal is to forge a truly interactive global network of Fast-Track Cities that will share best practices and key lessons learned, as well as ultimately celebrate their successes in attaining the 90-90-90 and zero discrimination and stigma targets. Through the concerted efforts of Mayors, city governments, affected communities, public health officials, healthcare providers, and other relevant stakeholders, we must overcome the barriers that impede the scale-up of HIV prevention, testing, treatment, care, and support for people at risk for and those living with HIV in a rights-based and equitable manner.

Visit www.iapac.org/cities to learn more about the Fast-Track Cities Initiative and IAPAC-supported work completed in 2015 under local Fast-Track City leadership.

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IAPAC represents more than 20,000 clinicians and allied health care professionals in over 150 countries. Its mission is to improve the quality of prevention, care, treatment, and support services provided to men, women, and children affected by and living with HIV and comorbid conditions such as tuberculosis and viral hepatitis. Visit www.iapac.org for more information about IAPAC and its global activities.