Currently, in our country cancer is the third leading cause of death and its impact and mortality rates are increasing. Because of this, more than 50 civil society organizations inside the Mexican Republic are demanding:

1. The urgency to launch a National Cancer Plan in Mexico which considers the patient as the main focus of public policy

2. A regulatory structure for The National Cancer Plan coordinated between the institutions of the National Health System, captured in the National Development Plan, and the Health Sectoral Program. It should consider the organized civil society which contributes to education, prevention, detection and prompt diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care of cancer patients

3. Specific and sufficient budget items should be assigned in order to guarantee the proper operation and functioning of this national public policy

Our proposals for a patient-centered National Cancer Plan in Mexico

1. Primary Prevention
   - Develop prevention campaigns which involve the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and the organized civil society
   - Prevention, update, and certification of general practitioners and interns focused on risk factors and self-care
   - Permanent dialogue between those involved in prevention campaigns for the identification of patient needs considering the patient’s point of view

2. Screening and early detection
   - Strengthen the communication between the National Health System’s clinics and hospitals with 1st, 2nd and 3rd attention levels in order to guarantee the prompt diagnosis and referral to high-specialty hospitals
   - Civil society organizations’ involvement in certification schemes for screening and early detection
   - Mandatory integration of oncology courses for medicine plans of study

3. Access to cancer treatment in good time and in an appropriate manner
   - Unify cancer care criteria in all National Health System institutions
   - Continuous update of the Clinical Practice Guide and Protocol of Care in accordance with scientific innovations
   - Certification and update of specialist physicians every 5 years
   - Establish a model of comprehensive assistance which protects the patient’s dignity
   - Guaranteed care for all types of cancer within the National Health System
   - Formalize, ensure transparency, and expand the cancer inclusion criteria in Public Health Insurance
   - Optimize the hospital accreditation process for cancer care.
4. Palliative Care

• Guarantee the access to essential medications for pain control in accordance with the civil society organizations’ recommendations

• Eliminate the bureaucratic barriers for the patients’ access to palliative care programs

• Palliative care should be stipulated by all private, public and employer-sponsored medical insurances.

5. Rehabilitation

• Complete and individualize cancer rehabilitation for cancer patients

• Integrate rehabilitation in public and private medical insurance to improve patients’ quality of life

• Specialized oncology certification for the multidisciplinary rehabilitation teams

• Empowerment of the cancer patient to guarantee his or her labor reinsertion.

Our principles and cross-cutting themes

1. A patient-centered public policy

• Public policies should be created without discrimination, with gender perspective and with full respect for human rights

• Empower citizens to take responsibility for their own health

• Efficiency and quality in the institutional processes

2. Financing, transparency and accountability

• Specified budget for the creation and implementation of a long term patient-centered National Cancer Plan

• Transparency and accountability in the execution of the budget intended for cancer control

• Universal access to information, infrastructure, personnel, medications, resources, and the various National Health System Institutions for patients.