

**G2** GENEVA  
GLOBAL  
**H2** HEALTH  
HUB

THE GENEVA GLOBAL HEALTH HUB

ANNUAL REPORT

2016



## PREFACE

The Geneva Global Health Hub is a Geneva-based association that provides space for civil society organizations to meet, share and create initiatives for more democratic global health governance. The Hub was founded on 21 May 2016 and is now celebrating its first anniversary. A great deal has been accomplished in the first year, and I am proud to present you our first Annual Report.

As a member-based association, the Hub's achievements are largely due to the active participation of its Member organizations. Therefore I would like to thank you all for making the Hub the lively and inspiring platform it has become. Special thanks go to the members of the Steering Committee and to our tireless Executive Secretariat, as well as to the Medicus Mundi International Network for hosting the Secretariat.

It has been an exciting and productive year, and although I am stepping down from the Presidency at this point, I look forward to continuing working with you all on behalf of one of G2H2's founding Member Organizations. Having presided over the Hub's creation and initial growth, I now look forward to the Hub's expansion as we continue to welcome new Member Organizations.

**Mariska Meurs**  
*President, 2016-2017*



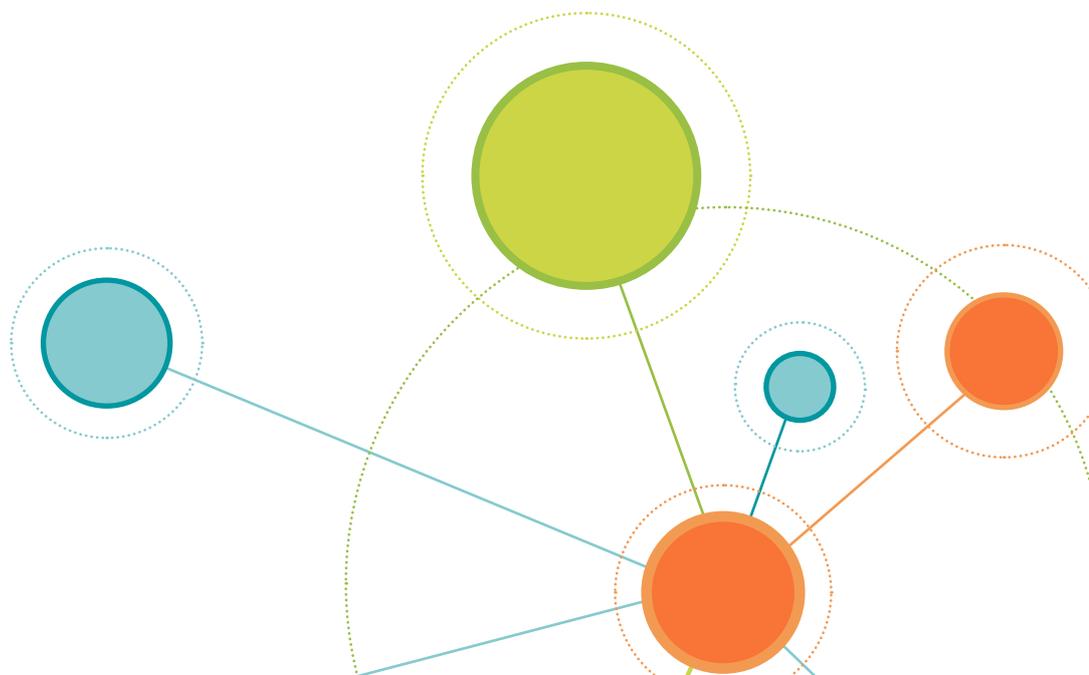
## INTRODUCTION

At a strategy meeting in Geneva in January 2015, civil society organizations discussed the need for more continuity in their exchanges on global health. Instead of meeting twice a year around the meetings of the WHO governing bodies, there was a wish to have a platform for continuous cooperation, exchange of knowledge and strategy development. After a period of consultations and planning, the Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2 – “the Hub”) was formally launched at its constitutive assembly on 21 May 2016 in Geneva.

The Hub aims at providing a space for civil society to meet, share knowledge and create joint initiatives for more democratic global health governance, both on-line and face-to-face. In the simple words of the G2H2 slogan:

*We build a strong civil society space in Geneva*

*for more democratic global health governance.*





## INSTITUTIONAL SETUP

The newly elected G2H2 Steering Committee (SC) met for the first time during the World Health Assembly 2016, immediately after the establishment of the G2H2 Association. After this initial face-to-face meeting, 7 further SC meetings were held via internet platforms. According to the G2H2 statutes, the SC is authorized to “carry out all acts that further the purposes of the G2H2.” The mandate of the SC includes, in particular:

- » Overseeing and monitoring of activities, processes, institutions and outputs of the G2H2, and in particular, overseeing and monitoring the work of the Secretariat;
- » Strategic planning and reporting;
- » Consolidation and further development of the project;
- » Representation of the G2H2 membership in the recruitment of new members and fundraising.

Members of the G2H2 Steering Committee in 2016 were:

- » **Mariska Meurs** (Wemos Foundation), President
- » **Bill Jeffery** (Centre for Health Science and Law), Vice-President
- » **Garance Upham** (Safe Observer International), Treasurer
- » **Odile Frank** (NGO Forum for Health), Secretary
- » **Patrick Kadama** (ACHEST), ordinary member
- » **Ann Lindsay**, ordinary member
- » **Thomas Schwarz** (MMI Network), Executive Secretary of G2H2, ex-officio

**Secretariat:** As agreed by the constitutive assembly, the G2H2 Secretariat was initially and is currently still hosted by the Medicus Mundi International Network at its recently opened Geneva office, based on a Secretariat agreement which frames its role and scope of work. The Executive Secretary who is currently the only employed G2H2 staff is delegated to implement and lead the day-to-day management of the Hub.

# G2H2 “YEAR ONE”: OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS

## 1. Networking and communication

*“We will enable G2H2 members to network and communicate between them electronically and in face-to-face meetings.”*

Networking and communication are the core functions of the Hub and most activities evolved around this core activity. Several tools have been created to share information between members and to enable them to find each other and communicate.

Central communication tools are the [G2H2 website](#), including an events calendar, the [G2H2 Twitter feed](#) and [Action Alerts](#) that members can use to post updates and invite exchange on topics of global health.



**Five Action Alerts** were published in the first year, providing information and inviting exchange on processes calling for civil society attention, such as the WHO Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (FENSA), the High Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth (ComHEEG), and front-of-pack nutrition labelling. Two Alerts focused on the election of the new Director General of the WHO that followed a new procedure in 2016.



**Meeting each other face-to-face** has proven to be the most effective way to foster both new and existing collaborations. In 2016, the Hub prepared two civil society meetings that took place in Geneva in January 2017. Both were successful. On 20 January 2017, 36 civil society representatives participated in the brainstorming meeting “Let’s talk: Economic determination of health policies and governance”. The discussions were introduced by participants and led to lively exchanges of viewpoints and information-sharing on campaigns, meetings, initiatives that the various participants are involved in, as well as new ideas for action and for establishing bridges with civil society movements working on similar issues. The following day, on 21 January, the Hub organized a civil society strategy meeting on the WHO Executive Board (EB) agenda together with the Third World Network and the South Centre, in which 44 organizations participated and shared assessments of the issues on the EB agenda, with a particular focus on WHO governance. Encouraged by this successful start of our main project, we intend to considerably invest in the further development of the civil society meetings over the coming years.



January 2017: Brainstorming...



...and strategizing

Furthermore, the Hub has implemented a number of on-line communication tools and has demonstrated increasing visibility on social media:

- » **Twitter:** Since early October, G2H2 updates on global health processes and events involving Geneva-based institutions are continuously posted, and the number of followers and retweets indicate the growing visibility of the Hub:



	Tweets	New followers	Impressions	Retweeted
October 2016	84	127	30'900	214
November 2016	63	60	32'900	166
December 2016	50	62	39'300	204
January 2017	128	176	111'100	569
February 2017	38	96	40'400	137
March 2017	56	139	81'500	304
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>336'100</b>	<b>1594</b>
<b>REPLIES AND RETWEETS</b>	<b>1969</b>			

- » **G2H2 updates via email:** informing Members on external – such as upcoming events – and internal issues, including the status of work plan activities.
- » **G2H2 Dropbox:** via which Members have access to basic documents such as the statutes, annual general meeting and Steering Committee meeting reports, the work plan and budget and contact information for Members.
- » **A listserv:** available for easy communication within the network that is in the course of implementation. Upon request, internal listservs can be set up to communicate and/or strategize around specific themes or events.
- » **A leaflet and business cards:** for the Executive Secretary and the President.



## 2. Intelligence and links

*“G2H2 members will benefit from information gathered on health-related institutions in Geneva, based on mapping, networking and meeting attendance.”*

The G2H2 website offers basic information on Geneva-based institutions and contacts, and the Hub regularly feeds its members with information on meetings, consultations and other opportunities for getting involved in global health processes, via its tweets, updates and events calendar. The Hub also invites members and other interested NGOs to inform each other and call for joint action via the Action Alerts on the site.

## 3. Logistical support

*“G2H2 members will find help to organize Geneva-based meetings, an office space and infrastructure, and assistance for resource-constrained members to raise funds for travel costs for meeting attendance.”*

Members have been informed about the possibility of using the G2H2 office space during their visits to Geneva. With respect to the raising of funds for travel costs, this option is being further developed in 2017.



#### 4. Administration, steering, promotion

*“The things to be done to get the G2H2 started, to guarantee steering and accountability and to prepare the ground for sustained work in the coming year(s).”*

Institutional arrangements – finalizing governance documents, a Secretariat agreement and a logo, opening a bank account – were made by the Steering Committee and the Executive Secretary. Membership of the Hub has grown steadily over a short time, from 12 Founding Members in May 2016 to 20 Members at the end of 2016. Further growth is expected in 2017 as meetings, networking and joint activities result in enhanced visibility of the Hub’s added value to its current and potential Members.



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Hoping you have enjoyed this snapshot of the G2H2, remember to keep an eye on the website ([www.g2h2.org](http://www.g2h2.org)) and to follow the Hub on Twitter ([@G2H2\\_Geneva](https://twitter.com/G2H2_Geneva)) for a continuous update of important events and opinions of civil society on global health debates in Geneva.

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