

Task Group “40 Years of Alma Ata” (AA40)

Background, field of work

Health campaigners worldwide achieved a major breakthrough in 1978, at the UN Alma-Ata Conference on Primary Health Care. This conference statement signalled a new approach to health care, often described as the ‘primary health care approach’ or the ‘Alma-Ata principles’ – deeply rooted in the social and structural determinants of health, and emphasising the importance of accountability to the people. The following are excerpts from the Alma Ata Declaration:

- The Conference strongly reaffirms that health, which is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, is a fundamental human right and that the attainment of the highest possible level of health is a most important world-wide social goal whose realization requires the action of many other social and economic sectors in addition to the health sector.
- The existing gross inequality in the health status of the people, particularly between developed and developing countries as well as within countries, is politically, socially, and economically unacceptable and is, therefore, of common concern to all countries.
- The people have a right and duty to participate individually and collectively in the planning and implementation of their health care.
- Primary health care is essential health care based on practical, scientifically sound, and socially acceptable methods and technology made universally accessible to individuals and families in the community through their full participation and at a cost that the community and country can afford to maintain at every stage of their development in the spirit of self-reliance and self-determination.

Sources: [PHM](#), [WHO](#)

Reference: [Declaration of Alma-Ata](#)

Task, initial steps

The AA40 task group hosted by G2H2 intends to plan and implement a civil society led event in Geneva in 2018 to commemorate the 40 year jubilee of the Alma Ata Declaration. The event and the related communication shall allow to:

- critically analyse the state of implementation of the main Alma Ata Declaration principles (in particular: addressing determinants of health; global solidarity for health equity; accountability to the people, access to comprehensive health care services for all through a system structured around the principles of Comprehensive Primary Health Care);
- renew and promote a broad commitment to the values and the agenda of change expressed by the Declaration (universal access to health)

A small group of members of G2H2 and other Geneva based and international civil society organizations (AA40 core group) will undertake initial steps in the planning of the event, in particular by reaching out to World Health Organization to see if the event can be organized in collaboration with WHO as a pre-event or side event to the 71th World Health Assembly in May 2017. The further concept development (planned for early autumn 2018) and the institutional setup (organizational committee etc.) will depend on the outcome of these initial consultations.

AA40 core group

- Amit Sengupta, People’s Health Movement
- Andreas Wulf, Geneva Global Health Hub (host)
- Ann Lindsay, World Federation of Mental Health (co-lead)
- Manoj Kurian, Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance
- Mwai Makoka, World Council of Churches
- Thomas Schwarz, Medicus Mundi International Network (co-lead, AA40 secretariat)

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