



ANNUAL REPORT

2017



THE GENEVA GLOBAL HEALTH HUB IN 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Member and Friends,

At a strategy meeting held in Geneva in January 2015, civil society organizations discussed the need for more continuity in their exchanges on global health. In addition to 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 or “the Hub”) was formally launched and established as an association under Swiss law at its Constitutive Assembly held on 21 May 2016 in Geneva.

This year, the Hub celebrates its second anniversary. We are proud of the Hub’s accomplishments over this short period of time, and as the current President, I am happy to present this second annual report.

The Hub is first and foremost a member-based association and the participation of its active Members is key to its results. Therefore I heartily thank all our Members for making the Hub a lively and inspiring platform.

Andreas Wulf
President



YEAR TWO OF G2H2

The Geneva Global Health Hub is designed to provide 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 simple words: “We build a strong civil society space in Geneva for more democratic global health governance.”

After the Annual General Meeting in May 2017 when initial progress and perspectives were discussed by the Members, the G2H2 Steering Committee approved in June a biannual work plan for 2017-18 with four modules as follows:

1. Networking, communication and collaboration
2. Convening and facilitation of civil society strategizing and advocacy
3. Provision of services to individual G2H2 Members
4. Governance, accountability, institutional development

This second Annual Report is drafted along these lines, covering the calendar period from January to December 2017. References and further details can be obtained at the Secretariat.



1. NETWORKING COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

Networking, communication and collaboration are core functions of the Hub and most activities have evolved in these areas of work. In addition to the Annual General Assembly and open SC meetings as well as associated opportunities for the Members of G2H2 to network in face-to-face meetings (see later), several tools have been created to share information between Members and to enable them to communicate and exchange information and experience at all times via the web.

The **G2H2 website** offers basic information on the Hub, its meetings and publications, provides an overview and contact addresses of the G2H2 working groups and, supported by related tweets and internal mailing lists, offers updates on current Geneva global health meetings, consultations and other opportunities for civil society to engage in global health processes.

Since early October 2016, G2H2 updates on global health processes and events involving Geneva based institutions are continuously posted on **Twitter**, and the number of followers indicates the growing visibility of the Hub. The figures also show that visibility and interaction (in terms of impressions, mentions and new followers) were greatest in the months of the WHO governing body meetings (EB in January and World Health Assembly in May), and when we reported on particularly interesting processes at the WHO (hearings of DG candidates in March and WHO EB Special Session in November).

	Tweets	Impressions	Mentions	New followers
January	128	111'100	89	176
February	38	40'400	19	96
March	69	81'500	62	139
April	35	43'700	23	72
May	70	90'700	104	199
June	13	20'500	31	72
July	55	48'000	27	74
August	15	19'700	22	73
September	50	56'900	30	102
October	28	31'300	17	86
November	42	74'300	56	134
December	35	53'500	72	92
Total 2017	578	438'600	552	1315



An **internal mailing list (“G2H2-members”)** was set up by the Secretariat in summer 2017, based on features specified and adopted by the SC. Replacing the monthly e-mail updates by the secretariat and the initial “action alerts” published on the G2H2 website in 2016, the new listserv has provided G2H2 members and working groups with a direct, interactive and “horizontal” communication line for sharing information, networking and promoting collaboration. It has also helped the Secretariat to collect input (e.g. announcements of events and consultation) for the G2H2 website and Tweets. Initially most of the mailings were sent out by the Secretariat, but towards the end of the year, interaction on the mailing list increased, and the new communication channel was also used by Members for their announcements. Similar internal mailing lists have since then been established for two G2H2 Working groups.

Four **Working groups** were set up during 2017 to follow up and strategize on the issues most relevant to the G2H2 members: The **FENSA Watch** working group follows the implementation of the WHO Framework of Engagement with Non State Actors; the working group on **Philanthrocapitalism** looks into the role and influence of big private foundations on global health policies and practices; the working group on **Global Health and Corporate Power** seeks to link the health sector with the debates in an intergovernmental working group at the UN Human Rights Council on a Binding Treaty for Transnational Corporations to uphold human rights standards; and the temporary task team **40 years of Alma Ata** is strategizing for a civil society debate on the relevance of the Primary Health Care concept today and in the future.

The Working groups communicate through internal mailing lists and can be contacted by any interested Member through contacts indicated on the G2H2 website. The working groups report their activities as follows:

FENSA WATCH

The FENSA Watch Working group agreed that the following elements of the implementation of the WHO Framework of Engagement with non-State Actors needed its particular attention: the assessment of the FENSA implementation tools (in particular: the handbook for non-State actors, the handbook for WHO staff and the register of non-State actors); the admission of non-State actors into official relations with WHO and the review of the status of non-State actors currently in official relations; and FENSA implementation in partnerships and networks hosted or co-hosted by WHO.

The group prepared a briefing document for a meeting of the G2H2 President and Executive Secretary with WHO DG Tedros in November and organized a session in the civil society meeting in January 2018 (to be reported in detail). It also discussed and strategized on particular cases of Conflicts of Interest.

Unfortunately, by the end of the year, key FENSA implementation instruments had not yet been made available by the WHO Secretariat (in particular the Handbook for non-State actors; a simple guide for WHO staff on FENSA implementation is available since February 2018).

PHILANTHROCAPITALISM

The Working group established in summer 2017 plans to produce a paper on philanthrocapitalism by April 2018, including an analysis of the political economy of philanthrocapitalism, a mapping of actors and activities and a focus on interactions of such actors with WHO.

GLOBAL HEALTH AND CORPORATE POWER

The Working group looked at the process of an Intergovernmental Working Group currently drafting a binding treaty to regulate transnational corporations and other businesses. The group was established in summer 2017, with the aim of continuing and deepening the intersectoral dialogue on corporate power and global health launched at civil society meetings hosted by G2H2 in 2017 and to develop contributions by the health sector to activities and campaigns related to the “treaty process”.

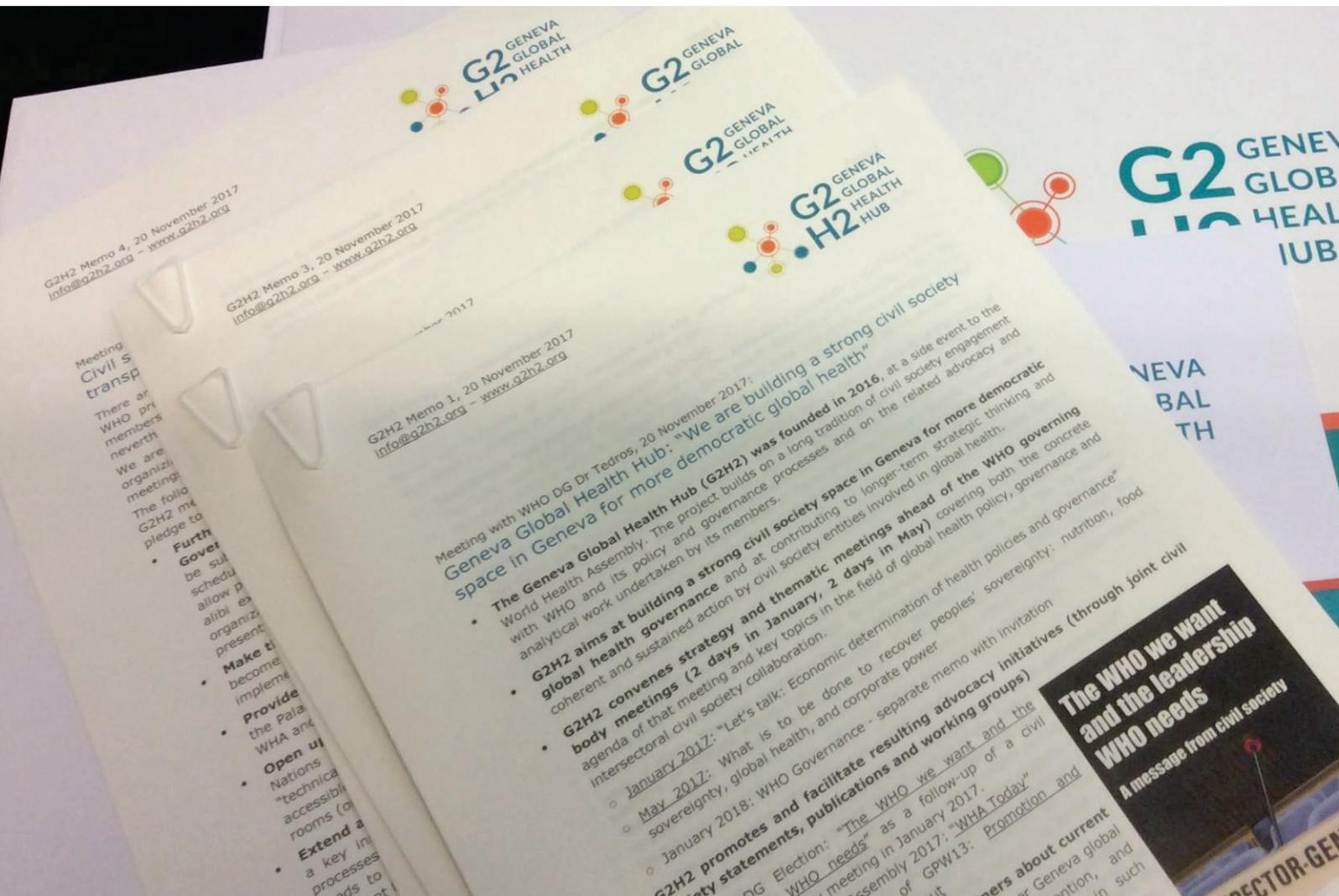


In the “Week of People’s Mobilization” for the binding treaty, in October 2017, the Working group organized, together with partners, a well-received workshop in Geneva on the role of transnational corporations and the right to health. After this, the EU tried to block the treaty process, including its funding. A key supporter of the binding treaty is the Ecuadorian Delegation. 2018 will be a crucial year, due to a series of meetings in the UN Human Rights Council; civil society mobilization is urgently needed, including for talking to the missions.

40 YEARS OF ALMA-ATA

The AA40 task team hosted by G2H2 intends to plan and implement a civil society led event in Geneva in 2018 to commemorate the 40 year anniversary of the Declaration of Alma-Ata. The event and the related communication shall allow for critical analysis of the state of implementation of the main Alma-Ata 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), providing the basis to renew and promote a broad commitment to the values and the agenda of change expressed in the Declaration.

A concept note for an official WHA side event was submitted by G2H2 to the WHO Secretariat, but no concrete decision regarding attribution of one of the eight available slots during the week of the World Health Assembly to G2H2 was known at the time of writing.



2. CONVENING AND FACILITATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY STRATEGIZING AND ADVOCACY

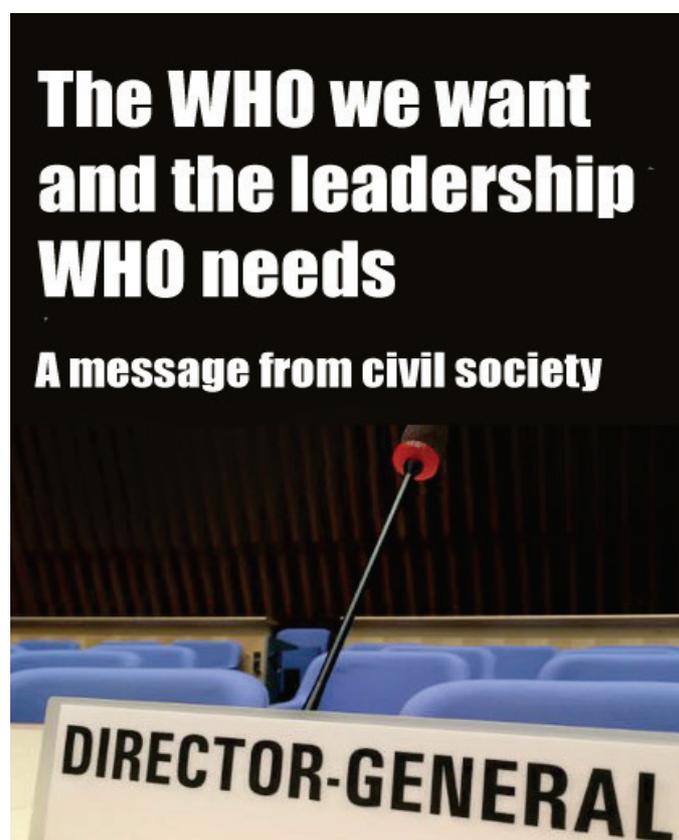
Meeting each other face-to-face remains the most effective way to nurture existing collaboration and foster new initiatives in the field of global health policy. On 20 January 2017, 36 representatives from civil society participated in the brainstorming meeting “**Let’s talk: Economic determination of health policies and governance**”. Lively discussions that were introduced by participants led to an exchange of viewpoints and sharing of information on existing campaigns, meetings and other initiatives, as well as to new ideas for action and to create bridges with civil society movements working on related issues. The following day, on 21 January, the Hub organized a **civil society strategy meeting** on the items of the WHO Executive Board agenda together with the People’s Health Movement’s “WHO Watch” team, the Third World Network and the South Centre, in which 44 organizations participated and shared their assessments of the EB items, with a special focus on WHO governance.

After these meetings, and following a proposal by participants, some Members of the Hub drafted a joint statement “**The WHO we want and the Leadership WHO needs**” to bring the voice of civil society into the debate on the election of a new WHO Director General (DG) by the World Health Assembly. The civil society statement and an initial list of 39 endorsements were first published on 6 March 2017, the day of a discussion meeting with the final three WHO DG candidates. The drafting and dissemination of the statement was facilitated by G2H2, as a service to its Members engaged in this process.

On 19 May, immediately before the World Health Assembly, G2H2 Members and interested civil society colleagues met for a day of debate on the interrelated topics of **nutrition, food, global health and corporate power** under the title: “What is to be done to recover peoples’ sovereignty?” This brainstorming meeting was again followed by a day of continuing discussion on WHO governance, FENSA implementation and financing of WHO, including the analysis of key WHA agenda items by the PHM’s “WHO Watch” Team.

The increased visibility and voice of the Hub resulted in an **invitation from the elected WHO DG, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** (Dr Tedros) to a face-to-face meeting in November. Meeting the WHO DG gave the President and the Executive Secretary of G2H2 the opportunity to present the Hub and its work, including briefs on G2H2 Members’ work on FENSA, on transparency and inclusiveness of WHO processes, and on global health governance. The G2H2 representatives took the opportunity to extend an invitation to the DG to attend the forthcoming G2H2 public discussions to be held in January 2018.

G2H2 also opened a civil society space on its website for comments on the draft of the new 2019-23 **General Programme of Work of WHO** in the lead up to the EB Special Session in November 2017. The space was widely used and increased the visibility of the Hub, strengthening its role as a convener of civil society.



3. PROVISION OF SERVICES TO INDIVIDUAL G2H2 MEMBERS

Members have been informed about the possibility of using the G2H2 office space during their visits to Geneva. Throughout the year, the G2H2 Secretariat responded to individual enquiries by G2H2 Members and other civil society colleagues on Geneva processes, meetings and actors.

Compared with the continuous development of general activities and services in the fields of convening, networking and communication provided to all Members and reported in the sections above, the range of services provided, upon request, to individual Hub Members or Partners has remained limited. As a result, our plan to gather and activate a group of experienced “Geneva people” to provide timely responses to particular enquiries about Geneva welcome services, funds for travel costs and civil society contacts and entry points at Geneva institutions has not yet been implemented.



4. GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY, INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The first **Annual General Assembly** took place on 21 May at the Graduate Institute. The fact that 17 of 24 Members physically attended the AGM held in Geneva attested to the continued engagement, interest and sense of ownership of the Members.

According to the G2H2 statutes, the **Steering Committee (SC)** is authorized to “carry out all acts that further the purposes of the G2H2.” In 2017, the SC met face-to-face at the time of the World Health Organization’s Executive Board (EB) in January and World Health Assembly (WHA) in May. In the course of the year, more regular meetings were held via an internet platform. In 2017, the G2H2 Steering Committee comprised the following officers:

- Mariska Meurs, Wemos Foundation, President (outgoing in May 2017)
- Andreas Wulf, medico international, President (elected in May 2017)
- Bill Jeffery, CHSL, Vice-President
- Odile Frank, Secretary
- Garance Upham, Safe Observer International, Treasurer
- Patrick Kadama, ACHEST, SC member
- Ann Lindsay, SC member
- Remco van de Pas, MMI Network, SC member (elected in May 2017)
- Thomas Schwarz, G2H2 Secretariat (ex-officio)

Mariska Meurs of Wemos Foundation steered the crucial founding period of the G2H2 with great success as its first President, and Andreas Wulf of medico international was elected to succeed her at the Annual General Assembly in May 2017.



As agreed by the Constitutive Assembly and reconfirmed by the AGM in May 2017, the **G2H2 Secretariat** is hosted by the Medicus Mundi International Network at its Geneva office, based on an agreement between G2H2 and MMI which defines the Secretariat's role and scope of work. The Executive Secretary who is currently the only employed G2H2 staff is delegated to implement the mandate and lead the day-to-day management of the Hub. As expressed by the Steering Committee and the Members at the first AGM, the contributions and engagement of the Secretariat are much appreciated.

The **institutional arrangements** needed to set up and run the Geneva Global Health Hub, including its governance documents and G2H2's Secretariat agreement with Medicus Mundi International, had been finalized by the Steering Committee and the Secretariat already in 2016.

In 2017 **G2H2 membership** grew from 18 to 28 members. We welcomed the following new members:

- Amel Association
- Baby Milk Action (UK)
- Gonoshasthaya Kendra
- Health Innovation in Practice
- Health Poverty Action
- ILEP
- International Association for Hospice & Palliative Care
- IOGT International
- Public Services International PSI
- World Social Forum on Health and Social Security

Further growth is expected in 2018 as meetings, networking and joint activities continue to increase the visibility and the credibility of G2H2, underscoring the value added of membership in the Hub to its Members and to the civil society landscape in the field of global health.





G2H2 Annual Report 2017

Available as online document (PDF)

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*"We build a strong civil society space
in Geneva for more democratic global
health governance."*